

**Reflection on the Gospel-17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 13:44-52 or Matthew 13:44-46)-Veronica Lawson RSM**

Today's gospel passage begins and ends with reference to treasure. It invites us to pause and name what constitutes the real "treasure" in our lives, to know our own hearts. What do we really want? Many of our contemporaries are asking that question in relation to a consumerist life-style that appropriates far more than our share of the world's resources and leaves little time or energy for considering either the plight of our endangered planet or the needs and aspirations of those on the edge. There is a new realisation that standard of living and quality of life are far from synonymous.

Several years ago, I had the good fortune to meet Kamran Mofid, an Iranian-born economist who holds dual British and Canadian citizenship. For two decades, Mofid had espoused and taught his students an "economy first" approach to life. Then, in a "search for life's bigger picture", he took up studies in pastoral theology and subsequently founded *Globalization for the Common Good*, an Oxford-based organisation dedicated to a global economics for the good of all rather than the benefit of the few. Mofid and his team believe that "the rich heritages of the world's religions" are a key resource for the promotion of global peace, justice, and the well-being of all earth's creatures. They invest their energies and resources in establishing dialogue at multiple levels, celebrating religious diversity, and seeking ways to overcome ideological divisions. They seek in these ways "to harness the wealth of the world's diverse spiritual and ethical traditions to create a sense of common purpose that can enable us to build social and economic policies that are truly humane and life-enhancing." Mofid turned his whole life around at considerable personal sacrifice for the sake of a "treasure" previously hidden to his consciousness. With like-minded people of diverse faiths, he now pursues a path that is named in Matthew's gospel as the reign or empire of the heavens.

Like Matthew's community, we need to be "scribes" trained for or educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions "what is new and what is old", wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions, our ways of looking at the world. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure and the pearl of great price remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We don't have to re-invent the wheel. We simply need to search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others like Kamran Mofid who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire

BULLETIN FOR THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 31st JULY 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	1.30 pm Funeral Mass
THURSDAY:	10.30 am Funeral Mass
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

READINGS -	First:	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
	Second:	Peter 1:16-19
	Gospel:	Matthew 17:1-9

RECENT DEATHS: Rita Jones, Caterina Ricca, Di Cumming.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Dunn, Bridie Foran, Ivan Boadle, Norman and Jane Perkins.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.
Next Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	850.00
	Loose money:	\$	300.00
	Direct debits:	\$	<u>245.00</u>
		\$	1,395.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$	1011.00

AN INVITATION

Is extended to parishioners to consider joining the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team which performs a valuable and significant ministry in the Parish. The RCIA Team accompanies those who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith and seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church. For further information please contact the Parish Office or Fr Peter on 5332 6611, or John Clonan on 0478 770 598.

PRIVATE BOARD REQUIRED

Private board is required in Ballarat for four nights a week, Monday—Thursday for a female. If you are able to assist please email rdam@badac.onmicrosoft.com

GALAH

From the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2017. Written and directed by local playwright, John Bolger. Minerva Space, Mechanics Institute, 117 Sturt Street, on Saturday, 5th August. All proceeds to assist asylum seekers and refugees in Ballarat. See Notice Board.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE TOURS

Are available each month on a Friday morning for prospective families and take in all learning areas of the College. To book a tour, please contact Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au or phone 5331 1688.

COUNTING TEAMS

An invitation is extended to parishioners to join, or form, a Parish Counting Team. There are currently 11 teams responsible for counting the Stewardship collections from our weekend Masses. The commitment is for an hour or two on a Sunday or Monday, depending on your availability. We need more to spread the load. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) if you are interested.

CENTRALISED BAPTISM PREPARATION/BAPTISM PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Clergy, Staff and Baptism Coordinators from the Parishes of St Alipius Ballarat East, St Columba's Ballarat North, Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree, St Patrick's Cathedral, St Aloysius Redan and St James' Sebastopol have been meeting to discuss the centralization of the Baptism process. Commencing this Thursday, 3rd August at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm and monthly thereafter on the first Thursday of each month, all families wishing to have their children (under 7) baptized will be invited to attend these preparation sessions at St Patrick's Cathedral. For any enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 5332 6611 or email ballarateastpasotral@ballarat.catholic.org.au

EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE PROPOSALS

In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. See flyers on the Notice Board and in the Church foyer.

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS—30 JULY

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous reasons. The International Labour Organization estimates that 21 million people are victims of forced labour globally. Children make up almost a third of all humans trafficking victims worldwide, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. Additionally, women and girls comprise 71% of human trafficking victims. The United Nations designated **30th July as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**, declaring that such a day was necessary "to raise the awareness of the situation of the victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights". This is an issue that affects people in Australia as well as in round the world. You can find more info at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml> and <https://acrath.org.au>