

Reflection on the Gospel- 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 20:1-16a) -Veronica Lawson RSM

From 1973 to 1975, I was a student in East Jerusalem. Early each morning, I crossed the road from my home at the Chaldean Patriarchate to the grounds of the Ecole Biblique. I would see the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, they were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.

In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. They are in fact equal as persons. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. Pope Leo XIII, writing about the condition of the working class back in 1891, echoes this aspect of the parable. It is worth revisiting Pope Leo's encyclical and recent commentaries on its relevance for the shaping of social policy in our times.

Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work because of sickness or disability or visa restrictions know something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well paid employment. Even minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. Some of us may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the growing disparity between rich and poor in our world, some may want to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Others, conscious of the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to the world's resources. In the face of climate change, many of those who used to be "first" in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts. They may not be quite as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers. They nonetheless find themselves waiting in line as never before. There's an invitation in today's story for us all to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.

BULLETIN FOR THE 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS	First: Ezekiel 18:25-28
	Second: Philippians 2:1-11
	Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

RECENT DEATHS: Steven Molloy, Sr Imelda Gallagher RSM, Tom Brudenall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor, Mary Martin, Patricia Harman, Mary Goossens, Fr Paul Mercovich.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli.
Next Week: **Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH: Envelopes: \$ 1,094.50
Loose: \$ 300.00
Credit Cards: \$ 3,507.00
Direct Debits: \$ 960.00
\$ 5,861.50

PRESBYTERY: \$ 606.00

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

“God my creator breathe on me again, Renew me, Refresh me, extend my abilities. Body and Blood of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being, keep me well. O Holy Spirit use me. Amen”

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On September 1st Christian Churches (Major Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Uniting and Protestant) around the world came together to celebrate **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** and the start of the **Season of Creation** between September 1st to October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

An ecumenical service to complete the **Season of Creation 2017** will be held at OLHC Parish, Wendouree, on Sunday October 1st at 2.30 pm. Afternoon tea to follow. All Welcome.

**LORETO COLLEGE
BEHIND THE HISTORIC FENCE**

This is an opportunity for prospective families to visit the College in ‘action’. See Notice Board for details.

**REAL CARE, LOVE & COMPASSION”
- THE ALTERNATIVE TO EUTHANASIA**

See Notice Board for details.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2017-18

A limited number of statements are available in the church foyer this weekend.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 27th September in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMES

A meeting of parishioners who take Holy Communion to the Nursing Homes and homebound will be held on Thursday, 28th September at 10.00 am in the Presbytery after the 9.30 am Mass. If you would like to assist in this ministry, you would be welcome to come along, or contact the Presbytery on 5332 6611.

RALLY FOR REFUGEES

Sunday, 8th October at 2.00 pm at the State Library, Swanston Street, CBD. Phone Liz on 0405 736 265. See Notice Board for further details.

ST ALIPIUS COMMUNITY BALL

The fundraising committee at St Alipius Primary School are currently organising a school ball and would like to extend the invitation to the whole St Alipius Community.

When: Saturday, 21st October, 7 pm—late
Where: Victoria Bowls Club
Cost: \$30 per ticket, supper provided.
Live Band

Tickets will be available from the school office.

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT
INFORMATION EVENING & OPEN MORNINGS**

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Evening and Open Mornings. The Information Evening will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents.

Open Mornings are guided tours by Damascus students during school hours.

INFORMATION EVENING: Thursday, 26th October at 6.30 pm

Please arrive at 6.15 pm for registration.

OPEN MORNINGS:

Thursday, 2nd and 9th November, 9 am -10.30 am

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
OF MERCY EDUCATION ON OUR BEAUTIFUL SITE**

Date & Time: Saturday, 28 October 2017, 2 pm—5 pm

Registration: Opens at 1.30 pm. Please arrive early to find a car park and register

Refreshment: Afternoon tea will be provided

Venue: Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear

RSVP: Friday, 27th October.

Register your attendance at www.damascus.vic.edu.au