

Reflection on the Gospel-28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 22:1-14) - Veronica Lawson RSM

The increasing wealth of the mega rich and the growing divide between rich and poor, particularly in the developing world, are challenging us all to consider our attitudes to the planet's resources. Today's gospel brings a warning. Like the invited guests in Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet, we are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation or "call" not only to share in but also to share the riches of God's creation. The king's invitation to successive and diverse groups recalls Israel's prophetic tradition where God's ultimate reign is imaged as a feast of the best food and wine, not just for a privileged few, but for all.

The privileged are the first to be invited while the invitation to the less privileged comes only after those on the initial guest list have refused to come. This aspect of the story hardly reflects the values of God's empire or reign. Furthermore, the violent retaliation of the spurned host is hard to reconcile with an image of God's reign. This is also true of the treatment of the guest without a wedding robe in a situation where none of the guests has had the opportunity to procure the right attire. It becomes clear that this is not a story to be taken literally. Rather, it invites the reader to critique interpretations that see the king's behaviour as a reflection of how God deals with God's creation.

So, what might this story be telling us? If we look again at the despotic aspects of the king's character, we might find there a reflection of our own capacity to look after ourselves at the expense of the poor and vulnerable of our world. We might find an image of our nation's long-term redirecting of the foreign aid budget in order to keep asylum seekers off-shore at staggering expense, some \$6.000 per person per day on Nauru for instance. On the other hand, if we put ourselves in the place of the original audience, we might find ourselves quite amazed at the inclusiveness of the king in a world where the people on the street would never have been invited to such a wedding banquet. If we think about the wedding garment as symbolic of a "right" disposition or attitude in relation to the host, the company, and the riches to be shared, we might be drawn to handle Earth's precious resources with a little more care for the common good of all the inhabitants of our planet. Our gospel tradition tells us that God's empire will only be realised when all have the opportunity to share in the feast of life and when other-than-human Earth inhabitants have the resources that enable them to flourish.

BULLETIN FOR THE 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350
Telephone: 5332 6611 Fax: 5332 3303
Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2017**

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| MONDAY: | No Mass |
| TUESDAY: | 5.00 pm in Mercy Centre |
| WEDNESDAY: | 6.00 pm Memorial Mass |
| 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 | 10.30 AM |
| BUNINYONG | SUN | 9.00 AM |

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS First: Isaiah 45:1.4-6
Second: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

RECENT DEATH: Rose Patton (Jack's sister-in-law)

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Cooper, Robert & Elizabeth Stevenson, Michael Casey, John Curran, James Roach, Matt Purcell, James Flanagan.

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, Maria Wilson.

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: | \$ 1,151.50 |
| | Loose: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Direct Debits: | \$ <u>835.00</u> |
| | | \$ 2,286.50 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 802.00 |

REV PAUL MERCOVICH R.I.P. – MEMORIAL MASS

On Wednesday, 18th October at 6.00 pm there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving here at St Alipius as an opportunity to gather in thanks, and in memory of Fr Paul.

LITURGY TEAM

We are seeking the support of parishioners to form a “Liturgy” team. The work of the team will be to:

- Learn more about liturgy
- Share in the preparation of prayers
- Encourage participation
- Evaluate how liturgy is celebrated in the Parish
- Co-ordinate formation of ministry

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please put your hand up and let Fr Peter or Jim know on 5332 6611.

Like many other “Churchy” words, “liturgy” comes from the language used by the early church in its worship and writings—Greek. The word liturgy is derived from leitourgia which is used to refer to any public work or function exercised by the people as a whole. The people who do the work of liturgy are the people of God, all baptised.

The well-known word that is close in meaning to “liturgy” is the word “worship”. But while worship can be done privately, “liturgy” is always a public, group activity. A working definition of “liturgy” that is helpful is “The official, public worship of the Church”

SUPPORTING EDMUND RICE WORKS: TIMOR-LESTE

Film luncheon “The Mountain Between Us”, plus afternoon tea, at the Regent Theatre on Sunday, 22nd October at 2.30 pm Cost: \$20.00, school students \$15.00. Contact Liz on 0417 347 262 or email lizh@iinet.com.au

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 available from the school office.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth, Justice and Healing Commission, will be the keynote speaker at the Emmaus Catholic Primary School on Thursday, 2nd November from 7.00—8.30 pm. Bookings are essential and should be made at www.emtclear.catholic.edu.au See Notice Board.

BALLARAT MERCY ASSOCIATES FUNDRAISER

Victoria and Abdul Film and High Tea Luncheon—Thursday 26th October at the Regent Theatre. Cost \$25.00. Raffle and Door Prizes.

Proceeds raised are for Mercy Works. All welcome.

Contacts for tickets: Ursula 0407 717 626 or Monica 0438 601 856.

SPECIAL MINISTERS

We are inviting you to consider being a visitor and Eucharistic Minister to one of our Nursing Homes in the parish.

There are four Aged Care facilities in the St Alipius Parish: Kiralee, Geoffrey Cutter, Eureka and The Freemasons.

There are around 40 Catholic residents in these homes.

We have a great team of people who currently visit and take Holy Communion to the Catholic residents.

Time: Average of 2 hours a week every second month. Ministers can work in pairs.

There will be orientation and assistance for beginners. You won't have to go on your own.

As is the norm now, you will need a Police Check. The parish will assist you to obtain this.

Please consider this opportunity as it means the world to the folk in aged care and also those who care for them and their families.....and, it might be me one day!

If interested, please contact Fr. Peter or Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

POP IN FOR A CUPPA

Our Vinnies Shop is hosting a special morning tea at 10:00—11:30 am on Wednesday, 18 October for the community to meet our volunteers who are on the frontline, helping people in times of need. Address: 1255 Howitt St., Wendouree. All are welcome.