

Reflection on the Gospel-29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 22:15-21)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The emergence of a common enemy is often the catalyst for sworn enemies to unite. In first century Palestine, Pharisees who were the respected religious teachers of the law and Herodians who represented secular Jewish power and wealth despised each other on both religious and political grounds. When both were faced with a perceived threat to their authority, however, they united in opposition. Their "opponent" in that context was Jesus of Nazareth. No good was to come of their alliance. They come together and try to set a trap for him. In attempting to set him up, they ironically pay him the greatest of tributes: addressing him as "teacher", they acknowledge his sincerity and admit that he teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth. They witness to his lack of concern with status and hierarchical division.

The question of these traditional enemies is intended to put Jesus in a "no win" position: "Is it lawful to pay tribute to the emperor or not?" Jesus turns the question back upon them. He lets them know that he is aware of their malicious intentions and asks them to produce the coin used for the tax. He thus makes the issue one of images, a sensitive issue for all Jews, rather than of tribute. The Roman denarius that they produce bears the bust of the Roman emperor and the Latin inscription, "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, High Priest".

Jesus' response, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", can be interpreted in several ways. Is Jesus simply exposing their hypocrisy as bearers of images? From a Jewish perspective, everything belongs to God, the earth and all its riches. The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians are Jews, even if the sympathies of the latter lean towards the Roman occupiers. Is he telling them to pay the tax while still recognising God's prior claim? Is he telling them not to pay the tax precisely because the emperor has no claim on what belongs to God? Is he critiquing the Roman occupation or legitimizing it? Or is he saying something else? They are left to interpret his response as they wish. One thing is clear: Jesus' words have nothing to do with the modern distinction between Church and secular state. There are good reasons for paying taxes in a secular state and for contributing financially to the life of the Church. It is quite anachronistic to invoke this text in support of paying state taxes or of supporting the Church financially. The story is more about sincerity and truth in our relationships with each other and with the God of all truth. That must be the main criterion for any personal or global alliance, military or otherwise.

BULLETIN FOR THE 29th 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, 23rd OCTOBER 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:	No Mass

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS	First: Exodus 22:20-26
	Second: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
	Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

RECENT DEATH: James Lee, Carmel Mitchell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joan Auchettl, John Basett, Nora Lopez-Herrera.

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, Mary Martin, Maria Wilson.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 9: J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: Team 10: P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	
Envelopes:	\$ 1,877.00
Loose:	\$ 300.00
Credit Cards	\$ 6,747.00
Direct Debits:	\$ 540.00
	\$ 9,464.00
PRESBYTERY:	\$ 1,068.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 25th October in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Enter via Gent Street.

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.

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.

ST JOHN OF GOD—HORIZON HOUSE

St John of God Health Care's Horizon House Program provides accommodation, care and support to young people aged 16 to 22 years who are currently experiencing, or are at serious risk of, homelessness.

Horizon House residents come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Many have experienced significant, and often complex, problems in their life. Our caregivers are there to help them access assistance from other providers (such as mental health care services) and provide regular counselling and emotional support.

For further information visit the website at www.sjog.org.au/horizonhouse or contact 9278 1713

WORLD TEACHER DAY, FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER

Everyday, teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young people in our country. On this day, we take the opportunity to acknowledge our teachers and say thank you for the significant contributions they make in our classrooms and communities.

On behalf of the parish, I acknowledge and appreciate the commitment and professionalism of the teachers in the schools of our parish: St Alipius, Emmaus, Damascus & St Francis Xavier, and to all who have been teachers, Thank You. Fr. Peter

"Prime responsibility for creating the unique Christian School Climate rests with the teachers, as individuals and as a community." (The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School).

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. Francis has been asked to help us consider how we can help shape the Catholic Church of tomorrow. Bookings are essential and should be made at www.emtclear.catholic.edu.au (find the link on the homepage of the site, click on it and follow the cues) or phone 5330 2266. See Notice Board.

SPECIAL MINISTERS

We thank those who have responded to the invitation to visit the Nursing Homes in our Parish.

If you have yet to respond and/or would like further information please contact Fr Peter or Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Each Monday evening between 7.30 and 8.30 pm a team of volunteers deliver bread to homes across the parish. We are currently looking for at least 2 people to join this team. If you are interested or would like further information, phone Geoff Clarkson on 5340 0782.

Assist a Student is a scholarship program organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society to provide support, resources and educational opportunities to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region. We invite you to share in this mission with us. **Education** is the key to breaking the poverty cycle as it enables individuals to support themselves, their families and their communities.

- 100% of your donation goes to the students' education needs for one year.
- Your donation of \$70 will be matched with a student from one of our partner countries.
- You will be informed of the student's name, country and course of study.

Information brochures are available from the Piety Stall.