

**Reflection on the Gospel-30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
(Matthew 22:34-40)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Until fairly recently, the Jewishness of Jesus was often downplayed, even ignored. Today's gospel passage has Jesus affirming the most central of Jewish traditions, namely the command of Deuteronomy 6 known as the *Shema* (so called from the first word in the statement meaning "hear"). The words of the *Shema* are recited repeatedly every day by every faithful Jew. Although not a prayer in itself, the *Shema* is an integral part of Jewish liturgy and prayer. It is a creedal statement that continues to function like an overture to Jewish life and practice. The doorpost at the entrance to a Jewish home generally features a tiny rectangular box known as a *mezuzah*. It contains a scroll bearing the text of the *Shema*. Those who enter touch the *mezuzah* with the greatest reverence. When I first encountered this practice, I was deeply affected by the power of the symbol to link one with the deep story of a people, in this case with that of the Jewish people.

In Matthew's story, Jesus the Jew provides an honest response to the less than honest questioning of an expert in Jewish law. He overlooks the hostility of the lawyer and evokes the text of the *Shema*. Jesus thus invites the lawyer to return to the heart of their shared tradition. He links the teaching of the *Shema* on wholehearted love of God with a second commandment taken from Leviticus 19: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". The lawyer's unfair "testing" of Jesus is evidence that this is precisely what he fails to do: he addresses Jesus as teacher, a term of respect, and yet fails to show him the respect due to him as neighbour.

For Jesus, the whole of the Torah and the teaching of the prophets can be summed up in the commandments to love God with all one's being-heart, soul, and mind, and to love one's neighbour as oneself. Not just love, but *intensity of love* is the issue here. We see such intensity of love in the lives of people like Dr Catherine Hamlin and the late Dr Reg Hamlin whose fistula hospital in Addis Ababa has, since 1959, restored health and dignity to the most marginalised of women. I see it in the heroism of my own friends who pour out their lives for the sake of those in communities remote from the centres of power. The witness of their commitment functions like the *mezuzah* in our lives: it draws us back into the heart of the gospel tradition and calls us to a deeper, more intense love. It also helps us to deal with the insincerity of those who seek to score points and undermine the dignity of others.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST**

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING  
MONDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	10.00 am Funeral Mass—Leo Leonard 5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10
	Second: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13
	Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

**RECENT DEATH:** Leo Leonard.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Dunn

**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 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

**Next Week: Team 11:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart



**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,435.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>195.00</u>
		\$ 1,930.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 906.00

**LITURGY GROUP RESPONSE**

As there has been only two expressions of interest in the formation of a Liturgy Group, perhaps the Parish is not ready to undertake this ministry. Fr Peter will be issuing an invitation next year with some more lead up reflection.

**LITURGY ROSTERS**

Liturgy rosters are available for collection near the Piety Stall this weekend.

**COMMUNION TO THE HOMES**

If you are aware of anyone who may like Communion at home, please contact 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.*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth, Justice and Healing Commission, will be the keynote speaker at the Emmaus Catholic Primary School this 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](http://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.

**SISTERS OF MERCY MEMORIAL LITURGY**

It is 160 years this year since the Sisters of Mercy came to Victoria. The Ballarat Mercy Associates extend an invitation to remember deceased Sisters of Mercy at a Memorial Liturgy on *All Souls Day* (Thursday, 2nd November) at the Ballarat New Cemetery at 2.00 pm. Enter via the Lydiard Street gate. Lunch afterwards at North Ballarat Football Club (at own cost). *RSVP* by 1st November, phone 0419 875 349.

**CARING GROUP**

The Caring Group Meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd November in St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

**Save this Date!**

The Anointing Mass will be held on Saturday, 7th December at 2.00 pm followed by afternoon tea in St Alipius Hall. If you need transport please contact a member of the Caring Group. We would appreciate the contribution of a plate for afternoon tea.

**FRIENDSHIP WALK**

The Ballarat Interfaith Network & JCMA are holding a *Friendship Walk* on Sunday, 5th November from 2.00 to 4.30 pm. Come along and spend an afternoon walking together in friendship and goodwill between St Alipius Catholic Church, Ballarat Hebrew Congregation Synagogue and Islamic Mosque. The walk starts at 2.00 pm from St Alipius Church and finishes at around 3.45 pm at the Islamic Mosque in Canadian. See Notice Board for further details.

To register for this event please phone Margaret: (0400 650 234) or Maureen: (0418 383 802).

**REMEMBRANCE MASS**

Saturday, 11th November at 6.00 pm. A plate for supper to share afterwards in the Parish Hall would be appreciated.

**MASS AT POOTILLA CEMETERY**

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday, 12th November at 9.30 am. All welcome. Some chairs provided but BYO if possible. For further information please phone 5334 0450.