

**Reflection on the Gospel-31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 23:1-12)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel has particular relevance for all in positions of authority, whether as teachers or leaders of organisations or communities. Appointment or election to such positions is not for the sake of status or self-aggrandizement. Neither does the specialised knowledge associated with such roles bring with it the right to special privileges. Sadly, both civic and religious leaders can easily develop a sense of entitlement that shifts the exercise of their authority from service to privilege and oppression. That seems to have been the case for certain religious leaders in first century Palestine.

Within Second Temple Judaism, the Pharisees were the respected teachers and interpreters of the Law of Moses. Some of them abused their positions and so became the subject of Jesus' scathing and cumulative criticism. They exploited their specialised knowledge to exercise power over the people and create intolerable burdens while at the same time failing to observe their own rules. They sought the adulation of the people through their exaggerated and ostentatious observance of certain religious customs. They are accused of broadening their phylacteries, the little leather boxes containing the words of the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:5) that observant Jews bound to their heads and arms, and of lengthening the tassles attached to their cloaks (in observance of Deuteronomy 22:12). They looked for special treatment, for places and titles of honour, and for public recognition.

Matthew attaches to this condemnation of the scribes and Pharisees several loosely connected sayings of Jesus that link service and humility. Greatness lies, not in the pursuit of power over others, but rather in knowing one's proper place in the scheme of things and so recognising that God is the source of all human power and authority. In *Treading Lightly: The Hidden Wisdom of the World's Oldest People*, Karl-Erik Svelby and Tex Skuthorpe demonstrate how the story of one indigenous community, the Nhunngabarra, offers a compelling alternative to hierarchical leadership in our times, namely the age-old "context-specific" leadership for sustainability. *Treading Lightly* offers a vision utterly congruent with the gospel-inspired earth-conscious leadership of Pope Francis.

BULLETIN FOR THE 31st 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, 6th NOVEMBER 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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS	First: Wisdom 6:12-16
	Second: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
	Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

RECENT DEATH: Maureen Crear.

ANNIVERSARIES: Monsignor Henry Nolan, Alex Forbes, Kevin O'Keefe.

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 11:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Next Week: **Team 12:** C Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,452.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>170.00</u>
		\$ 1,922.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 826.00



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.

PRINCIPAL EMMAUS—BRENDAN MAHER

Brendan has accepted a position of Principal at St Mary's Yarram South Gippsland for 2018. Brendan has served as Principal in our parish schools, St Alipius and as founding principal of Emmaus some 10 years ago. Brendan has been outstanding in his commitment to Catholic Education and the learning needs of students, teachers and parents. We wish Brendan and Gillian well in this new adventure.

FRANCIS SULLIVAN—KEY NOTE ADDRESS

There was a very good gathering of some 80 people to hear Francis speak of the Church's response to sexual abuse in institutions and to hear what is happening within our schools and parish to create a safe and positive environment for all people, especially children. The journey continues.

Thanks to Brendan Maher, Principal at the Emmaus Community for convening this gathering and hospitality.

SCHOOL WORK DISPLAY DOWN THE BACK —CHECK IT OUT!

The children from the school have displayed their work from their RE class - enjoy! This is an initiative of the School Advisory Council to develop closer links between Parish and School.

FRIENDSHIP WALK

The Ballarat Interfaith Network & JCMA are holding a *Friendship Walk* this Sunday, 5th November from 2.00 to 4.30 pm. 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.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 8th November at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Enter via Gent Street.

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.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
MELBOURNE 17-19 NOVEMBER, 2017**

Invest in your most precious asset..... Your Marriage! .

The session starts 7pm on Friday and ends at 5 pm on Sunday. For information and bookings please phone Andre and Maria on 0411225992, or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY

Annual fete on Saturday, 18th November at 10.00 am. Stalls galore, handball competition, morning tea, Spinning wheel, BBB lunch and much more. Fun for all the family.

ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER—SUNDAY 19TH NOV, 2 PM

"Sweet Monas" Gospel Choir will rock around the garden at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington to assist local asylum seekers and their families. Fun for all with singers, musicians, stalls, cakes, prize roses, face painting, games and competitions and afternoon tea. Entry \$20, children free. Inquiries 0401175045. All Welcome.!

ANOINTING MASS

Will be held on Thursday, 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.

ALL SOULS

Elizabeth Johnson, leaning on Karl Rahner, adds this thought: "*Hoping against hope, we affirm that they [our loved ones who have died] have fallen not into nothingness but into the embrace of the living God. And that is where we can find them again; when we open our hearts to the silent calmness of God's own life in which we dwell, not by selfishly calling them back to where we are, but by descending into the depth of our own hearts where God also abides.*"

Quoted by Ron Rolheiser OMI in 'The Communion of Saints', 2 November 2015.