

**Reflection on the Gospel — 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 9:30-37)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of us have to admit to being like the disciples whom Jesus was trying to bring from blindness and ignorance to insight and understanding. Like them, we are often afraid to ask for explanations when we fear that we may not be able to deal with the responses we receive. We so often choose to live in denial. No matter how strongly Jesus insists that the way of the gospel will lead to his violent death, his closest followers persist in their refusal to accept the inevitability of suffering in the life of one who so openly challenges abuses of power.

More focussed on personal recognition and status, the “twelve” engage in a childish argument about who is the greatest among them. They are inside “the house” in Capernaum, the home of Jesus. They are understandably silent when Jesus questions them about the discussion they had “on the way”. They have much to learn and he needs their attention if they are to understand who he is and what it means to be his disciple. They need to learn that being first has nothing to do with seeking the limelight, with hierarchy or status, with power or adulation. It has everything to do with engaging in ministry without distinction or discrimination, with being “servant of all”. Like us, they may also have much to learn from “the way” itself, the path they tread through the land.

An engaging scene follows this discussion. They are “inside the house”, an open house where all are welcome. Jesus places a child in their midst. The child is unnamed. We might give this child a name so that she or he is a real person for us. Jesus seemingly gathers the twelve in a circle around him. Taking the child in his arms, he tries to show them that gospel leadership resides, not in privilege, but in the welcome offered to those whose voices are rarely heard and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jesus, the suffering Messiah, actually identifies with a defenceless child, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me”. His identification with the defenceless is as intimate as his identification with God, “the one who sent me”. As a church, we might well hear today’s gospel story as a call to respond with compassion and justice to those who have suffered the indignity and injustice of abuse in their childhood. We might hear it as an invitation to listen to the cry of our sisters and brothers who continue to seek the dignity and justice that belong to all of God’s people. We might learn from the five high profile Australians, the “filthy rich and homeless”, who lived for a time with the nation’s most vulnerable and called us all to commit to ways of being that might enable all to live in dignity and hope.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong
(The Parish of St Alipius, the communities of Ballarat East and Buninyong are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350
Telephone: 5332 6611
Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am Parish Church
THURSDAY: No Mass
FRIDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Centre

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 B

READINGS First: Numbers 11:25-29
Second: James 5:1-6
Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

RECENT DEATHS: Carmyl Lyons, Kathleen “Kath” Moran

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerald Mullane

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton©, B. Brisbane, J.O'Brien.
Next Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders©, M. Saunders

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 943.70
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 850.00
		\$ 1,943.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 692.00



WELCOME TO BISHOP PETER CONNORS

We welcome back Bishop Peter Connors who will be celebrating masses with us this weekend. Thank you again for your generosity in ministering to us and sharing in our parish life.

BLESSINGS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD

As the school holidays commence this weekend we pray that all students, staff, families and volunteers in our schools enjoy a restful and rejuvenating break. We extend special thoughts and blessings to senior students and teachers preparing for upcoming VCE exams that their time and efforts will be rewarded.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER PETER

Greetings. We are in our last days of the course, so soon. Over the last week as well as the usual lectures around the Enhancing Catholic School Identity, we have also had lectures on Ecology in the Catholic tradition, Spirituality and Leadership, reflections on some of Pope Francis' writings on Mercy and relationships and Prayer, Sacraments and Liturgy in the Catholic school. Real good stuff.

We have visited and toured schools near Amsterdam and met the Bishop of Haarlem Amsterdam and his Vicar for education to hear about issues that are effecting the Church in the Netherlands. It is a very secular country. We even had a day off there with a tour of the city. Interesting place. We also travelled to Antwerp for school visit and tour of their historical and famous cathedral. There were some great European masterpieces hanging in the cathedral. Art is a great teacher.

I am still working hard to get the assignments completed but might not happen before I leave. In my prayers and regards, Peter.

EVENTS

A social afternoon will be held on Wednesday 26th September in the Mercy Centre at 2.00pm. Please enter via Gent St. Everyone welcome.

OPENING AND BLESSING OF MERCY PLACE BALLARAT

Parishioners are welcome to attend the official Opening and Blessing of Mercy Place Ballarat that will take place on **Tuesday, 25th September at 10.00am**. The Chapel will also be commissioned. Address: 60 Corbett Street, Ballarat East.

ST ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED NEXT WEEK

INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS OF ST PETER AND PAUL'S COMMUNITY BUNINYONG - RCIA TEAM MEMBER REQUIRED

The RCIA program is an enriching process for all involved, catechumens, sponsors, catechists and team members. To ensure our parish RCIA program runs effectively we require a parishioner from the Buninyong community to join our RCIA Team. Currently two of the five catechumens participating in our parish RCIA program have a connection with the Buninyong community and it would be ideal to provide dismissals for these within their community. RCIA team members participate in planning and presentation of the program including organising and preparing catechists and coordinating dismissals from Ss Peter and Paul's community as well as attending monthly RCIA catechumen meetings. If you would be interested in being involved in this significant ministry please contact the Parish Office Ph: 53326611 or John Clonan Ph: 0478770598.

END OF SEASON OF CREATION 2018 TALK

An invitation is extended to a talk by Sr Adele Howard RSM who attended the two day conference at the Vatican on 5-6th July on the third anniversary of Laudato Si, titled **"Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth"** at St Patrick's hall, Ballarat on Saturday 29th September at 10.30am following 10.00am Mass at the Cathedral. All welcome, tea/coffee available

BALLARAT PLENARY COUNCIL GATHERINGS

The Ballarat Plenary Council Gatherings will take place on Wed 10th Oct, 7pm and Thu 11th Oct, 10am. Both gatherings will be held in the Ballarat Glowrey-MacKillop Hall Cathedral precinct. The gatherings provide an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. All are invited to attend.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – NOW OPEN FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, youth ministry, liturgy, leadership - many subjects available – 5 weeks per subject. Next study cycle starts October 21, contact us by October 12. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone Amanda Smith on 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2018-2019: "A PLACE TO CALL HOME"

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on September 30. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is entitled: *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*. This is a response to the growing problem of homelessness in Australia. For further details call (02) 8306 3499 or visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements#SJS2018

GRIEF TO GRACE – HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE

Grief to Grace is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26-31, 2019. To request an application contact Anne on 0478599241 or email info@griefftoGraceaus.org.au. More information: www.griefftoGrace.org