

Reflection on the Gospel-27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

(Mark 10:2-16)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The question of gender inclusivity in decision-making has been much in the news of late. The maleness of political and church institutions has been highlighted in my country as a serious contributor to the disorder that finds expression in both bullying and abuse. Since the creation of patriarchy in the Bronze Age, some 3000 years ago, lack of gender inclusivity has posed a challenge, particularly for those who find themselves excluded.

The “test” question about divorce that the Pharisees put to Jesus is very strange in a first century Jewish context, as is the reference to women divorcing their husbands. While there is no evidence that anyone in Jewish circles questioned the legality of divorce, there is plenty of evidence for lively debate concerning the grounds on which a Jewish man could divorce his wife: adultery; inferior cooking; even diminished beauty! There were various schools of thought. Jewish law, unlike Roman law, however, did not permit women to initiate divorce proceedings on any grounds at all. From the perspective of the Markan Jesus, Moses only *permitted* divorce as a concession to “hardness of heart”: it was not so from the beginning. The ideal, he insists, is expressed in the Garden Story of Genesis, the story of “one flesh”, of partnership, of equality and mutuality, of enduring commitment in marriage. The Hebrew word *'ezer* which is translated as “helper” in the first reading from Genesis is used in the Psalms of God’s relationship to Israel. It does not denote inferiority of women to men as is sometimes suggested. A better translation might be “companion”.

Human limitation is just as much a reality now as it was in the ancient world. We strive for the ideal but fall far short of it in so many ways. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of our lives. The parties involved become the “little ones” whose lives are shattered and disoriented. The embrace of the community is needed in a particular way for everyone affected by divorce, especially the children. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are sometimes forgotten. Too often, those who have experienced the trauma of divorce feel alienated from the worshipping community, and this at a time when they need the courage to face a different future from the one they had envisaged.

The story about marital commitment leads immediately into a story about Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them, despite the disciples’ attempts to send them away. Children are important persons who are never to be excluded from the inner circles of love and compassion. We might hear today’s gospel as a call to be inclusive in all our relationships and to remember the children no matter what happens.

27TH 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, 8th OCTOBER 2018

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am Parish Church
THURSDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Centre (Victoria St)

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES

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

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Wisdom 7:7-11
Second: Hebrews 4:12-13
Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

RECENT DEATHS: Mr Paul Kierce (Portland, formerly of Ballarat).

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Cooper, Vera Gittings, John Britt, John Barnett, Tim McKeegan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Lucille Hogsett, Cathy Jones.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 11: E. Kennedy©, C. Stewart.
Next Week: Team 12: K. Bevelander©, M. Liston, G. Maguire.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 792.00
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 1,145.00
		\$ 2,087.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 865.00



WELCOME TO FATHER KEVIN ARUNDELL

We welcome back Fr Kevin Arundell 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.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

This month's social afternoon will be held on Wednesday 10th October at 2.00pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS

Statements are available for collection this weekend.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFO SESSIONS FOR 2020 ENROLMENT

Interested families and students are warmly invited to attend the second information evening on Thursday 25th October at 6.30pm. Open Mornings with tours will be held on Thursday 1st November, 9am -10.30am. Please register your attendance online via the Damascus College website www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

A DAY RETREAT WITH FR LARRY RICHARDS

Fr Larry Richards speaks directly to the heart. Be inspired and have your faith renewed at this day retreat for all ages. Fr Larry will help reconnect you to Jesus and speak to him in prayer. All the way from the USA, Fr Larry is a speaker renowned for his challenging and inspiring preaching don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity! Fr Larry Richards appears regularly on EWTN, the global Catholic TV network and can be found online at <https://thereasonforourhope.org/>.

Where: The Mountain of Praise, 23 Cemetery Hill Rd., Carngham.

When: 1pm-6pm, Saturday 13th October

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted)

Register: parousiamedia.com/events. Contact: John Smyth, 0406 747 123, johnsmyth@parousiamedia.com.

MASS AT POOTILLA CEMETERY

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday 11th November, 9.30am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. Info: ph. 5334 0450.

BALLARAT PLENARY COUNCIL GATHERINGS

The Ballarat Diocese is holding Gatherings as part of preparations for Plenary Council 2020. Representatives from Parishes, school communities, Catholic organisations and all others who might be interested, are invited to attend. The gatherings provide an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. Ballarat gatherings will be held in the Glowrey-MacKillop Hall, Cathedral precinct, and are scheduled for **Wednesday 10th October at 7.00pm** and **Thursday 11th October at 10.00am**.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

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 amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 5337 7125

CHRISTIAN INITIATION AUSTRALIA NETWORK CONFERENCE 2018

Last chance to register for the CIAN 2018 National RCIA Conference, "Evangelisation and the RCIA" to be held in Melbourne from October 11-13, 2018. For more information go to <http://www.cianetwork.net/cian-2018>

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK—OCTOBER 14-21

The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:

- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Everyone is encouraged to help reduce poverty and hardship by organising an activity during the Week or taking part in an activity organised by others. Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. In Anti-Poverty Week, YOU can help fight poverty and hardship! There are many wonderful opportunities to learn more and to become involved. Visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au for a wealth of resources.

"A MISSION FOR LIFE" PRESENTED BY FR RICHARD LEONARD

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree is hosting "A Mission for Life" presented by Fr Richard Leonard SJ from October 29-31, 2008. Topics are "Going out into the world we need all the help we can get", "Nine steps to making better choices for my life" and "Where the hell is God - Holding on to Faith through the tough times". Richard Leonard, SJ, is a writer and film critic who has written and spoken about cinema, culture, and faith on four continents. An Australian Jesuit with advanced degrees in theology and film, Fr Leonard is the director of the Australian Catholic Film Office. See flyer at back of church .

PASTORAL CARE PRACTITIONER—VACANCIES

Catholic Care are currently seeking to fill two ongoing Pastoral Care Practitioner vacancies at Hopkins Correctional Centre Ararat and Langi Kal Kal Prison Beaufort. More information is available from Catholic Care website <http://www.ccam.org.au/page/58/careers>.