

**Reflection on the Gospel-30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 10:46-52)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

What is it that we fail to see? Today's gospel reading brings to closure a long section of Mark's gospel that focuses on the journey of Jesus and his disciples from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Jericho in the south. Jericho is the final staging point in the journey to Jerusalem where the final act of the gospel drama will be played out. This section of the gospel (8:27-10:52) is prefaced by the story of a blind man who comes to sight in stages and ends with the story of another blind man, Bartimaeus, who comes from blindness to sight, as well as from insight to greater insight, and joins Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem. On the intervening journey, Jesus endeavours to lead the Twelve out of their metaphorical blindness into an understanding of what it means to follow a suffering messiah. They remain for some time in their blindness, as subsequent events will demonstrate.

The narrator creates an impression of urgency at this point in Mark's gospel. "They" come to Jericho and then leave. The intervention of Bartimaeus, who tries to attract the attention of Jesus by calling out from the roadside, threatens to delay the journey. When he cries out for mercy, many "rebuke" him. This is a strong word. It is used of people in the crowd who neither share the depth of Bartimaeus' faith nor grasp the nature of Jesus' mission of gathering in "the remnant of Israel, among them the blind and the lame" (Jeremiah 31:8). Those who try to silence Bartimaeus are a bit like the family of Jesus who tried to protect him from himself (Mark 3:31).

When it is clear that the perception of the "many" is not shared by Jesus, we have an almost comical scene in which they do a complete about-face. It seems they want to please the authority figure no matter what. Bartimaeus offers a stark contrast to these people. He knows that Jesus has the power to bring the mercy of God into his life and the lives of those who wait by the roadside with faith in their hearts. He receives the assurance from Jesus that his faith has made him well.

We can probably find some reflection of ourselves in all the characters in today's story. At times we are aware of our blindness and wait desperately by the roadside for the right person or circumstances to come along and give us the heart to rise up and live the journey of faith. At times, we are like the many who think we know what is best for others and who try to silence the voices of those who interfere with our plans. At other times, we respond to the cries for mercy and stretch out our hands to gather in those whose disabilities might otherwise exclude them.

30TH 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, 29th OCTOBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 5.00 pm Mercy Centre (Victoria St)
WEDNESDAY: No Mass
THURSDAY
(All Saints Day): 7.30 am St Patrick's Cathedral
11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
12.05 pm St Patrick's Cathedral
FRIDAY:
(All Souls Day) 9.30 am Parish Church
7.00 pm St Patrick's Cathedral

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Second: Hebrews 7:23-28
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

RECENT DEATHS: Marlene Kerrins (Dandenong)

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 Sinnott, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Lucille Hogsett, Cathy Jones.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 2:** B. Perkins©, F. Nolan.
Next Week: **Team 3:** M. O'Donnell©, L. O'Donnell.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,051.10
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 420.00
		\$ 1,621.10
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 876.00



WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Friday, 26th October was World Teachers' Day. We extend our best wishes and thanks to all of the wonderful teachers in our parish schools of St Alipius Primary, St Francis Xavier, Emmaus Catholic Primary School and Damascus College.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – NOTICE OF AGM

An invitation is extended to all members of our School and Parish Community to attend our 2018 Annual General Meeting to be held in the McInerney Centre on Wednesday 28th November at 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. Light refreshments provided.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR 2020 ENROLMENT

The last Open Morning with tours for families interested in enrolment at Damascus College will be held on Thursday 1st November, 9am – 10.30am. On arrival please go to the Mercy Administration Wing. Enrolment applications for Year 7 2020 close on Friday 15th February 2019.

CAN YOU HELP?

A refugee man recently settled in Ballarat requires a dining setting, washing machine and a TV. A refugee family require a lawn mower. If you could help with any of these items please contact Margaret on 0402 498 644.

BLUE KNOT DAY OCTOBER 29

Blue Knot Day on Monday October 29 is a national awareness day developed by Blue Knot Foundation, Australia's leading organisation supporting adult survivors of childhood trauma. There will be community events and activities across the country from October 29 – November 4. To purchase Blue Knot Day merchandise, make a donation or find out more please visit <https://www.blueknot.org.au/BlueKnotDay>.

"A MISSION FOR LIFE" PRESENTED BY FR RICHARD LEONARD

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree is hosting "A Mission for Life" presented by Australian Jesuit, Fr Richard Leonard SJ from October 29-31, 2018. 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" More information from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or see flyer at back of church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, "ASSIST A STUDENT" PROGRAM FOR VICTORIA

There are new brochures for the Assist a Student Program at the Piety Stall. The program involves a \$70.00 sponsorship of a student from a poorer neighbouring country to assist with attendance at school and is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle and encapsulates the Vincentian message of "a hand up, not a hand out". Thank you for your support.

LORETO COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ANNUAL HIGH TEA

Past pupils of Loreto College are warmly invited to attend the delightful annual High Tea at Loreto College Ballarat, 1600 Sturt Street (Gate A) on Wed, 7th November 2018 commencing at 2.00pm. The day will also include the Past Pupils AGM at 3.45pm and Mass of Remembrance in the Loreto Chapel at 5.00pm. Tickets \$15 available online via <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=420956&>. Please register your attendance to the Development Office by 31st October via www.loreto.vic.edu.au/event or phone 5329 6137.

YOUNG VINNIES BUSH DANCE

The Ballarat Young Vinnies will be hosting a bush dance on Saturday the 10th of November at 7.30 pm at the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. Admission at the door - \$15 per adult, \$25 per family. Please bring small change for the raffle and activities. Light refreshments and supper to be provided. All welcome! Proceeds will go towards our charitable activities.

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.

ANNUAL NAZARETH HOUSE FETE

Saturday 17 Nov – 10am. We are continuing to collect donations of items for our spinning wheel or other homemade wares and food for selling at our stall. If any student, staff or families have a donation it can be collected by contacting Margaret on 0419 003 415 or left at Nazareth House Reception.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. There is no group sharing, couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. 2018 Melbourne weekend dates: 9-11 November 2018. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: Ph: Andre and Maria 0411 225 992; Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au; Website: www.wwme.org.au

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 in May 26-31, '2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftoGraceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griefftoGrace.org