

**Reflection on the Gospel-31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 12:28-34)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In today's gospel reading we encounter a good scribe, while in next week's we find some not so good scribes. This seems to fit the pattern of the Markan gospel. There are faithful disciples and not so faithful disciples. There are honest Jewish leaders like Joseph of Arimathea and not so honest leaders like those who try to entrap Jesus. There are principled Romans like the centurion who witnesses the death of Jesus, and not so principled Romans like Pilate who condemns him to death.

Goodness and fitness for the 'kin-dom' or 'empire of God' are never guaranteed, according to the Markan schema, by status or position or call or ethnicity or gender or by any other contingency of existence. Everyone has choices, as Andrea is constantly reminded by her boyfriend Nate in "The Devil Wears Prada." For a Jew, the first and best choice is to love the God of Israel with one's whole being and then to love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus and his questioner are agreed on that. Jesus is presented in today's gospel as a Jew who knows and observes the Law of Moses. He wins the respect of the scribe, a specialist in the Law, who has overheard him debating with the Sadducees.

Jesus recognises the sincerity of the scribe and takes seriously the question that this teacher of the Law puts to him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" He responds in the words of the "Shema Israel" from Deuteronomy 6, today's first reading. Love of God comes first. It is a love that derives from gratitude for God's liberating action in the lives of God's people. Israel has known the unconditional love of God. Those who know anything about human behaviour would probably agree that the experience of unconditional love engenders an increased capacity for love. For the Jews, including those who throw in their lot with Jesus the Jewish Galilean, to love one's neighbour is to keep the second commandment of Leviticus 19:18, "...you shall love your neighbour as yourself".

In first-century Judaism, love of God was expressed in worship and in the prayers and rituals of daily life. Love of others likewise found expression in action, not only in care of family and close friends, but also in support of "the poor and the needy and the stranger." To seek peace was also a feature of neighbourly love. To accept and follow such a program is to be, with the scribe, "not far from" God's kin-dom or empire. Contemporary sensibilities might lead us to include the other-than-human among the neighbours or "kin" we are called to love. If we learn to love the earth and all that inhabits it, the birds and the beasts, the plants and the soil, the sky and the sea, then we are more likely to tread lightly upon it.

31ST 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
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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 5th NOVEMBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 5.00 pm Mercy Centre (Victoria St)
WEDNESDAY: No Mass
THURSDAY: 9.30 am Parish Church
11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY: 9.30 am Parish Church

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 B

READINGS First: 1 Kings 17:10-16
Second: Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

RECENT DEATHS: Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Lou Gleeson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mons. Henry Nolan, Molly Forbes, Sandra Van-Kempen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, 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 3:** M. O'Donnell©, L. O'Donnell.
Next Week: **Team 4:** C. Tarquino©, M. Tarquino.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	758.20
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards:	\$	6,207.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	205.00
			\$
PRESBYTERY:		\$	807.00

PARISH FINANCE MEETING

6.00pm Wednesday, 7th November in Parish Admin. Planning for 2019 Stewardship Program. The Finance Group are interested to hear from anyone willing to be part of a small organizing group to work with the parish. All the parishes of the Ballarat region are taking part in the Stewardship Program.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The children of the St Alipius Parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation wish to thank you all for your prayers and thoughts over this very special time. While reconciling their relationship with God and reflecting on the everlasting love that God has for us all, the children also explored ways they could bring reconciliation into their everyday lives. They became familiar with the steps of reconciliation including acknowledging the wrong doing, apologising and asking for forgiveness, and doing something to make amends. Again, thank you for your ongoing prayers and support as the children continue through their sacramental journey.

HELP SOUGHT FOR 2018 BUNINYONG COMMUNITY CAROLS SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2018

St Peter & Paul's have been involved each year through, in recent years, John and June Marmo and myself (Mike Maloney). Health issues for John and June now make the task difficult for them, and we need some more assistance. Preparation of materials for the activities (colouring, painting, stick-ons, small paper ornaments, etc., with a Christian theme) is usually done over a couple of afternoons, with materials provided as required. On the day of the Carols, a couple of volunteers (Working With Children Certificates) assist in the marquee with those from the other churches, from about 4.30 until the carols are about to start. A couple of people to assist with setting up and taking down the marquee (provided) is also requested. For more information see Mike Maloney or June or John Marmo.

REMEMBRANCE MASS

The Remembrance Mass will be held at the 6 pm Mass on Saturday 10th November. After Mass a gathering in the Hall will follow. We would appreciate the donation of a plate for the supper.

ANOINTING MASS – SAVE THE DATE

The Anointing Mass will be held on Wednesday, 5th December at 2pm.

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 7.30pm 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

The Annual Nazareth House Fete is a fun family day and a great chance to buy up on homemade goodies, grab a bargain and win a prize on the very popular spinning wheel. 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 003415](tel:0419003415) or left at Nazareth House Reception.

FUNDRAISER TO AID ASYLUM SEEKERS & REFUGEES

House of Welcome Ballarat invites you to music and dancing in the gardens at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington on Sunday November 18th at 2pm. Cakes, plants, lucky dips, face painting, mini auction and drawing of Holiday for 3 people for 6 nights in Victor Harbour, SA at 4pm. Tickets \$2 available now and on the day and proceeds to aid asylum seekers/refugees and other vulnerable people. Guest speaker relaying news from refugees living on Nauru. For Inquiries and competition tickets phone Carmel 0401175045, or email annekav123@yahoo.co.uk

MASS AT GORDON CEMETERY

Sunday, November 18 at 11.00am. Please bring a chair. Mass at Ballan will be held at 8.45am (no mass at St Patrick's church). Weather permitting. All welcome to attend.