

**Reflection on the Gospel-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 12:38-44)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Whether the longer or shorter gospel reading is selected for today's liturgy, the literary context deserves attention. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the "greater condemnation". They "devour the houses of widows" and hide behind the pretext of long prayers. Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system. They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill him (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the goodness of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular "destitute" widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy out of their excess. Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist? Or is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a free agent, a model of discipleship, who offers everything she has to live on? It may not be necessary to choose between these two interpretations. It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness.

32ND 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
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Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 11 am Mercy Centre (Victoria St)
THURSDAY: No Mass
FRIDAY: 9.30 am Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Daniel 12:1-3
Second: Hebrews 10:11-14,18
Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

RECENT DEATHS: Lucy O'Donohue, Basil Britt.

ANNIVERSARIES: Pat Towns, Kevin O'Keefe, Jim Simpson, Lyn O'Brien.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Lucille Hogsett, Cathy Jones.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 4: C. Tarquino©, M. Tarquino.
Next Week: Team 5: J. Moran©, B. Forbes.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,159.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>1,360.00</u>
		\$ 2,669.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 773.00



REMEMBRANCE MASS

The Remembrance Mass will be held at the 6 pm Vigil Mass this weekend. Parishioners and all families who have lost a loved one, are welcome to share a cuppa in the hall after mass.

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS FORUM

Please remember in your prayers the priests of the diocese who are meeting on Tuesday, 12th November for their bi-annual *Council of Priests' Forum*.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

A social afternoon will be held on *Wednesday, 14th November at 2.00pm* in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

JESSE TREE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are sought to help assist in the writing of gift tags and tying ribbon attachments for the Advent Jesse trees for St Alipius and Ss Peter & Paul's Churches at a little workshop in the parish hall on *Wednesday 28th November at 10.00am*. Help will also be required to assist in delivering gifts to the institutions we support between the 17th & 20th December. Any queries please contact Marg McCarty on 0423 208 286.

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.

ANOINTING MASS – SAVE THE DATE

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

CAN YOU HELP?

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

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.

JOY+ YOUTH FESTIVAL!

Joy+ Youth Festival for 15-30 yo. *Sunday, November 25*, Cathedral Precinct, Ballarat 2.00pm - 8.00pm. Fantastic music with Genevieve Bryant and band, special guests include Sam Clear and Sr Elizabeth Young. This is a free event including evening meal. Breakout sessions include music making with Genevieve - feel free to bring musical instrument. Come for all or part of the day. Please register online for our planning. Details on youth ministry page [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE

Enjoy a special screening of “The Grinch” at the Regent Cinemas Ballarat on *Sunday 2nd December 2018*. Tickets cost \$15 each and can be purchased via Flexischools <https://www.flexischools.com.au/>

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING – “ASIST”

Anyone could face a situation where suicide first aid is needed. The ASIST workshop will help you become better prepared to recognize when someone may be thinking of suicide, respond in ways that clarify and address suicide risk, understand why suicide thoughts are present, etc. *Thu 29 Nov & Fri 30 Nov 2018, 8.45am to 5pm* at Ballarat Community Health, 12 Lilburne St. Lucas. Cost \$330. Contact Michelle on 5364 2913 or sleep.ballarat@outlook.com