

**Reflection on the Gospel-19th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 12:32-48; shorter form 12:35-40)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The longer form of today's gospel brings together a number of loosely connected sayings of Jesus about trust and vigilance. Jesus addresses his disciples affectionately as a "little flock". He tells them that there is no need for fear. God, their "father", has delighted in giving them "the kin-dom" and they are to be generous in their turn. They are to sell their material possessions and give "alms" or, in a more accurate translation of the Greek original, they are to use their resources to engage in "works of mercy" (*eleēmosunē*). Their security resides in Jesus' assurance: "Where your treasure (or treasury) is, there your heart will be also." The parental and affectionate language of the opening verses is in sharp contrast with the violent imagery of the latter part of the gospel reading. Contrary to what some have argued in the past, the murderous slave master who cuts recalcitrant slaves into pieces can never be understood as a gospel image of God. In this problematic passage, the Lukan Jesus is engaging his hearers' experience of slavery in order to make a point about the need for attentiveness to the demands of the gospel. The vigilant slave is said to be "blessed" or "happy" or "privileged". From a contemporary perspective, it seems strange indeed to speak of a slave as fortunate. As the story unfolds, we realise that the slave enjoys a relative happiness in comparison with the fate of the other slaves.

The shorter form of the gospel in 12:35-40 presents a very strange teaching that would surely have been met with scepticism by its earliest hearers. The word picture that Luke paints is just not credible in a first century setting where slavery was taken for granted and where the respective roles of masters and slaves were characterised more by extreme violence than by mutuality of any sort. The disciples are told to be like slaves who keep vigil all night as they await the return of their master from a wedding banquet. Their function is to open the door when he knocks and, if they are awake enough to perform this function, there will be an extraordinary reversal of roles: the slaves will sit down at table while the master assumes the role of slave and serves their meal.

The disciples are being prepared for Jesus' announcement later in the narrative that he is among them as one who serves. They need to understand that something extraordinary is happening, even more extraordinary than the slave-master banquet scenario might suggest. God's way of being in the world is full of healing experiences and life-enhancing surprises. The final verses of the shorter reading shift to the image of the thief in the night. These verses are also about vigilance, being watchful and alert so as not to be taken by surprise in the final reckoning.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

St Alipius' Parish Church

84 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fiskens St, BUNINYONG 3357

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Hours: 9.30am—1.30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Telephone: 5332 6611

Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

CLERGY AND STAFF

Administrator: Rev. Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jorge De Chavez OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Bereavement Team: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 12th AUGUST 2019

WEDNESDAY:	9.30 am	Mercy Convent (Victoria St)
THURSDAY:	FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION	
	7.30 am	St Patrick's Cathedral
	9.30 am	St Alipius' Church - St Alipius' school leading
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
	12.05 pm	St Patrick's Cathedral
	5.30 pm	St Alipius' Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	17th August	6.00 PM
	SUN	18th August	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	18th August	10.30 AM

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

READINGS	First:	Jer	38:4-6, 8-10
	Second:	Heb	12:1-4
	Gospel:	Lk	12:49-53

BAPTISMS: Evie Arnel, Spencer Belsar

RECENT DEATHS: Noel O'Sullivan (Qld. Cath McDonald's father), Irene Curtain, Jane Morris, Brian Blood

ANNIVERSARIES: Tess Maguire, Hilda Duggan, Ivan Boadle

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Alison Rice, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

COUNTING TEAMS

This Week: **Team 11:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire
Next Week: **Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1153.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 390.00
		\$ 1849.20
PRESBYTERY		\$ 777.00



BISHOP PAUL'S VISIT TO OUR PARISH

Next weekend, the 17th & 18th August, Bishop Paul Bird will be visiting our parish to celebrate our weekend masses. Please join in a cuppa after the 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St. Alipius or after the 10.30am Sunday Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's to welcome and have a chat with Bishop Paul. Please bring a plate to share if able. Many thanks.

LETTERS FOR PETER

Parishioners are invited to express their "goodbye" to Fr Peter Sherman by dropping off any letters or cards to the parish office by **Tuesday 20th August**. Please use the mail slot next to the front door if outside of office hours. They will be collated and given to Peter along with a formal acknowledgement from the parish.

SOCIAL EVENT

A Social Afternoon will be held on **Wednesday, 14th August** in the Mercy Centre at 2pm. Please enter via Gent St.

TRAINING SESSION FOR READERS AND SPECIAL MINISTERS

The Liturgy Committee is running a Training Session for READERS and SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST on **Wednesday August 14 from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Alipius Church**. *All new people need to attend; those who'd like a refresher are welcome. If you are an apology, please let us know using the form on the website.* To register to attend the training session (or advise us of your apology), please complete the form at sapliturgy.net.au. Click on the 'Contact' menu item and then the *Training Session Form* link.

PLENARY COUNCIL PARISH FACILITATORS

Many thanks to the several parishioners who have expressed an interest in training to be discussion facilitators for our parish. All community members are encouraged to reflect upon the six themes for discernment as we want to hear everybody's voice when the opportunity for group discussion comes! The themes can be found on the church noticeboards and on the website: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

SAVE THE DATE

The Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Associate Professor Shane Mackinlay to be held at **Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo, Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 12pm.**

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH VOLUNTEERING

Since 1991 the OLHC Parish Wendouree has hosted a Christmas Day Lunch. On average around 140 people who otherwise would not be experiencing a traditional Christmas Day meal sit down in a joyous Christmas Spirit to a roast meal and dessert. Assistance is required with planning this event. If you may be in a position to assist in some way an information evening will be held on **Thursday August 29th at 7.00pm** in the Wendouree Parish Centre (to the left of the Church Car park). Your volunteering is not contingent upon your being available on Christmas Day. Enquiries Sandra 0438448942

SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENINGS & OPEN MORNINGS

For more information, please see the school websites.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE: Wednesday, September 4, 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 22 at 6.30pm. **Open Mornings:** Thursday, September 12, 9.00am – 10.30am and Tuesday October 29, 9.00am – 10.30am.

LORETO COLLEGE: Year 7 2021 Parent Information Evening will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7.00pm at the Mary's Mount Centre.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE: 2021 College Information Evening will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the OCA Pavilion.

2019 AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Registrations for travel packages to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival close August 31! Any parishioners interested in travelling as a group or as an individual in the Melbourne Collective are invited to contact Patrick, ph. 5337 7160 or email patrick.kennedy@ballarat.catholic.org.au for detailed travel costs, registration information and fundraising options. ACYF is a powerful opportunity for youth & young adults aged 15-30 to encounter Jesus Christ within a festival format that celebrates the vitality of the Catholic Church in Australia.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on **Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 7.00am** at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and will feature Hawthorn premiership champion Steve Lawrence as guest speaker. RSVP by Friday, August 23. Further information is available from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251, email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115, email vcjjdh.sully@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOCIAL AFTERNOON

"GOD NEVER SLEEPS" - Come along to a Spring afternoon tea on **Wednesday, September 4th - 1.30pm** and hear John and Margaret Millington OAM inspire you with their life story of faith which has enabled them to transform family tragedies into work for the community. Entry free - Door Prizes and afternoon tea. Mary Glowrey Room. St Patricks Hall. Lyons St. Ballarat. Inquiries - Carmel 0401175045 or annekav1234@gmail.com

NAZARETH HOUSE BALLARAT AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

Nazareth House Auxiliary are hosting an Iconic Movie (Sleepless in Seattle) and High Tea fundraiser on **Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 10.00am** at the Regent Cinema Ballarat. Tickets are \$25.00. Prepayment and prebooking essential. For more information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.