

## Reflection on the Gospel-20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 12:49-53)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

There is a sense of urgency in today's gospel. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed in 3:16 takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy descends on all God's people (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced the effect of the all too frequent bush fires in Australia or the wild fires of California can appreciate the power of this image. Climate change is undoubtedly increasing the risk of destructive fires. Drier conditions wither plant life that then becomes fuel for the fires. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake.

Linked with the image of fire is that of water: Jesus has a "baptism with which to be baptized". Once more, a sense of urgency is expressed as the power of water is evoked. Like fire, water has power to destroy and power to save. Fire and water become metaphors for the hard won gospel path to peace. Jesus seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (Luke 1:79 and 2:14). He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the families they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division. His hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be?

The Lukan Jesus is almost certainly describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We need to struggle with its ambiguity.

## ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST

### 20TH 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 Fisken St, BUNINYONG 3357

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri

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Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.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, 19th AUGUST 2019

MONDAY: No Mass

TUESDAY: No Mass

WEDNESDAY: 9.30 am Mercy Convent (Victoria St)

THURSDAY: 9.30 am St. Alipius' Church

11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)

FRIDAY: 9.30 am St. Alipius' Church

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS SAT 24th August 6.00 PM

SUN 25th August 10.30 AM

BUNINYONG SUN 25th August 9.00 AM

#### 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

READINGS First: Isaiah 66:18-21

Second: Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

BAPTISM: Mabel Collins

RECENT DEATHS: Kevin Nester, Sr Ursula Caine, Mick Iskmair

ANNIVERSARIES: Lawrie McCartin, Nicholas McGuigan, Geoffrey McCartin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelan, Alison Rice, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff, Eileen O'Meara, Peter Martin

## COUNTING TEAMS

This Week:  
Next Week:

Team 1: L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane  
Team 2: M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell

## COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 756.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 515.00
		\$ 1571.00
PRESBYTERY		\$ 770.00



## WELCOME TO BISHOP PAUL!

It is with great pleasure that our parish extends a warm welcome to Bishop Paul Bird who is celebrating our parish masses this weekend! 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 and have a chat with Bishop Paul.

## 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.

## PLENARY COUNCIL PARISH FACILITATORS

Many thanks to John Clonan, Kristen Murray, Eileen Rice, Damien McCartin and Bernadette Tolan who have expressed an interest in training to be discussion facilitators for the *Listening and Discernment* encounters associated with the six themes for our parish. These group encounters will be held later in the year. Please consider your own thoughts — the themes can be found on the church noticeboards and on the website: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## EMMAUS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT

Emmaus Catholic Primary School would like to extend to our Parish Community an invitation to join us at our Trivia Night! This major fundraising event for 2019, hosted by Trivia with a Twist, is taking place at the Albert Coates Complex at Federation University, Mount Helen on Friday 6th September - 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets are \$15pp or \$120 for a table of ten - available via [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) or contact Renae on 0438 413 142. Drinks at bar prices, byo snacks and wine glasses, please.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENINGS & OPEN MORNINGS

*For more information, please see the school websites.*

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE:** **Information Evenings:** 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.

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

## FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

### A Retreat in Daily Life

"Inner Peace in Friendship with Jesus" is the retreat in daily life over 4 weeks and will be offered to the first 24 parishioners who apply. Beginning on September 2 from 1.00pm – 3.00pm or 7.00pm – 9.00pm and each Monday in September at the same times, with a combined groups gathering on Saturday, October 5 from 1.30pm - 3.30pm. These meetings will be held at St Alipius' Hall, Victoria Street, Ballarat East. For more information regarding content of the retreat and an application form, please collect from the Church entrance and return your application form, plus \$25.00 for the book, to the Cathedral Parish Office (open 10.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday), as soon as possible. For more information or to receive an online application form, contact Rachel McLoughlin ibvm [mcloughlin@me.com](mailto:mcloughlin@me.com), ph. 0437 061 337 or Doreen Roache [doreenroache@bigpond.com](mailto:doreenroache@bigpond.com), ph. 0417 117 382

## KEEP THIS DATE FREE - FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH 6PM

Father Robert McCulloch is presenting "PERSECUTED FOR THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH" at Nazareth House Ballarat Hall in Mill Street at 7 pm. Entry by donation. He will celebrate Holy Mass preceding this at 6pm in St Anne's Chapel. All welcome. Inquiries 0401 175 045

## 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](mailto: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.

## LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION PROGRAM - For Women aged 25 - 35

Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Council for Australian Catholic Women, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Mission and the Australian Catholic University. It is designed by and for women who are inspired by the Gospel vision of justice, freedom and the dignity of the human person. Across a series of educational and formative encounters, this unique program brings the leadership experiences of women within the Church together in the context of an academic and collaborative learning environment. Applications close October 14. More details at <https://www.opw.catholic.org.au/projects/leadership-for-mission>