

Reflection on the Gospel-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 15:1-32)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Diverse creatures of the earth as well as earth elements feature in the gospel for this third Sunday of the Season of Creation. These evoke, once more, the eighth work of mercy with its call to contemplate God's creation with gratitude and to engage in simple daily gestures that have the power to transform our world. There is joy in living this way. While all three parables in today's gospel reading invite us into the experience of loss, loss of a valued creature, of a woman's means of survival, of an adult child's respect and presence, they likewise invite us into an encounter with God who seeks and "saves" the lost, be they human or other-than-human, and who rejoices big time when the lost are found.

The parables are prefaced by an account of the criticism Jesus endured for hosting "the lost" of the human community, namely the toll collectors and those who were categorised as "sinners". The critics in the story are those who consider themselves "righteous". They have no room in their hearts for compassion or forgiveness and no capacity to accept the goodness of a prophet who acts in ways that cut across their expectations.

"What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it?" asks Jesus of his critics, who would eschew any identification with "unclean" shepherds. The lost sheep is found and ultimately embraced by the community. The ensuing celebration is likened to the heavenly banquet where there is more joy over one who repents than over those who have no need of repentance. Repent/repentance may seem a strange choice of words since all the action is taken by the shepherd. The lost sheep simply responds to the initiative of the shepherd who goes after it and returns it to the fold.

"Or what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it?" is Jesus' second question to his critics. The pattern is repeated. The drachma, representing a day's wages, is lost, sought, found and the community rejoices. Occasionally in the biblical tradition, as here, God is imaged as a woman. God is not only the good male shepherd as in the first parable or the good male parent as in the third parable. God is also the diligent female householder who seeks and saves what is lost. No single image can contain the compassionate, loving God presented in these parables. The invitation to the believing community is to find ways of opening our hearts and the hearts of the unforgiving in our world to God's action of seeking and saving the lost—here and now, not simply in the afterlife.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST 24TH 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

Contact Details

Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri
Telephone: 5332 6611
email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAP Liturgy email: sapliturgy@gmail.com
SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au
Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Clergy and Staff

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Jorge De Chavez OSJ, Vincent Pham Van Long CSsR
Visiting Priests: Frs Dan Arundell and Barry Ryan
Parish Coordinator: Lucy O'Beirne
Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed
Funeral Ministry: Kathy Curran & Carmel Flynn

Masses This Week

Wednesday, 18th September	10.30 am	Damascus College Mass
Thursday, 19th September	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
Friday, 20th September	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	21st September	6.00 pm
	Sunday	22nd September	10.30 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday	22nd September	9.00 am

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	Amos	8:4-7
	Second:	1 Timothy	2:1-8
	Gospel:	Luke	16:1-13

Baptism: Jessica Nightingall

Recent Deaths: Danny Frawley, Robert Stevenson

Anniversaries:

We pray for the following who are unwell: Peter Martin

*Parishioners and family members are welcome to contact the parish office
if you would like to include a loved one here to be prayed for by our community.*



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests — this weekend

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for fifteen retired priests of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund. Special envelopes are available for this collection. You may return your envelope next week. Thank you for your ongoing support of our senior priests through this annual collection. A Credit card facility is available for your convenience, contributions over \$2.00 tax-deductible.

Damascus College Bright Futures Scholarship Fundraising Breakfast

A fundraising breakfast for the Damascus College Bright Futures Scholarship will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Ballarat Golf Club from 7.00am - 8.45am. Guest speaker is Mary Darcy, Counselling & Consulting Psychologist. \$25.00 per ticket, available from <https://www.trybooking.com/BDIUX>. The scholarship will support students who may be experiencing disadvantage and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice and contribute to their local communities.

Ordination of Bishop Elect Shane Mackinlay

Parishioners of Ballarat East and Buninyong are warmly invited to attend the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev Shane Mackinlay as the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo on Wednesday 16th October 2019, 12.00 noon. RSVP by 16th September online www.trybooking.com/BFGIS. See flyer on the church notice board.

Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Ordination of Shane Mackinlay as Bishop of Sandhurst Diocese will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, 13th November at 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome to attend.

Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 5:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds
Next Week: **Team 6:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 640.20
Loose: \$ 300.00
Direct Debits: \$ 495.00
\$ 1435.20

**Thank you to those who
contributed to the
collections last weekend**

Presbytery: \$ 557.00

Working With Children Checks & Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct

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

Over recent months, a number of parishioners have already updated or applied for a WWCC and signed a Code of Conduct in support of our parish's Child Safety commitment. These people have included: employees, Parish Finance Committee members, Children's Liturgy volunteers, welcome for Baptism, Home Visitation ministers, Funeral Ministry and Bereavement Team members, the Caring Group, sacristans and musicians/leaders. We are now requesting **readers** and **collectors** to obtain a WWCC along with those people who serve in the above ministries who have yet to apply or provide a copy to the parish office. Volunteer WWCC are free. Teachers may use their VIT Registration cards and provide a copy to the parish office.

- ⇒ New applications: go to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au. Follow instructions and use below parish information for the organisation with which you are volunteering. Photograph can be taken and verified at an Australia Post outlet.
- ⇒ Updating an existing card: on the website, access your profile and **Add: St Alipius Parish, 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East VIC 3350, phone number: 03 5332 6611.**
- Occupational Category:** 64 Religious Organizations.
- ⇒ **Please complete by Friday, 18th October 2019.**

Please contact Lucy in the parish office if you would like assistance and to sign a Safeguarding Children code of Conduct form. Thank you all for your wonderful contributions and support for this very important aspect of parish life.

Season of Creation

Pope Francis at his address on the World Day of prayer for Creation has urged all to join the ecumenical "Season of Creation" initiative, which runs from the Sept. 1 day of prayer through to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. An ecumenical service for the Season of Creation is being held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree on Sunday 29th September at 2pm. Refreshment to follow. All welcome.

Catholic Earthcare Public Lecture

Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese extends an invitation to attend a talk, "Fire and Aboriginal Agriculture in Victoria" by Fred Cahir, Associate Professor of Aboriginal History, Federation University to be held at the Mercy Centre on Thursday 3rd October from 7.00pm—7.30pm with questions. Entry via Gent Street, Ballarat East.

Final Mass — St Joseph's Church, Buangor

All are welcome to attend the final Mass at St Joseph's Church, Buangor on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 10.00am. The Church has recently been sold.

Nazareth House Holy Hour for Vocations

Thursday, September 26th Nazareth House Chapel, Mill Street Ballarat, 7.00pm – 8.00pm.