

Reflection on the Gospel-25th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 16:1-13)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The fourth week in the Season of Creation confronts us with the issue of the strategies we may need to employ if we are to create more sustainable ways of inhabiting the planet. A measure of cunning may be helpful. In *Dancing with Strangers*, Melbourne-based historian Inga Clenninden offered a new perspective on the famous incident of the spearing of Governor Arthur Phillip at Manly Cove on September 7, 1790. The “accident” at Manly was no accident, she argued, but a carefully staged and brilliantly executed response to the indignities inflicted by the British, albeit unwittingly, on the local inhabitants. The hero at Manly Cove is Baneelon (later known as Bennelong) who secures, for a time at least, the honour and survival of his people. He does so with all the cunning, if not the subterfuge, of the steward in Luke’s parable, and wins an uneasy approval. An ever present motif in the story of these early British-Australian encounters is the understanding of possessions and land peculiar to each.

From eighteenth century Manly Cove back to first-century Palestine is quite a leap. At stake in both arenas are survival and honour. Luke’s unlikely hero is a property manager or steward accountable to a land owner (the master) for the collection of rent from land poor tenants who work the land and pay their rent in produce. The steward is reported for mismanagement. He is called in, asked to produce the books and told he is about to be sacked. He thinks quickly, approaches the debtors, reduces their sizeable debts by the stroke of a pen, and thus gains their undying loyalty. He then hands over the books. While he has engaged in a series of smart moves, he is far from honest! The master is caught in a cleft stick: his steward has outwitted him and secured his own survival; the master has no honourable redress. He shakes his head and acknowledges the cunning or practical wisdom of the steward.

It must be noted that there is no critique in this parable of the injustices inherent in a system that maintains privilege and subordination. That may be a matter of consideration for disciples in our times. The parable reminds us, rather, that disciples need to have the practical wisdom or cunning of the steward, though to different ends. The parable gives way to a number of sayings about money and its use or misuse. While “money” as a means of exchange has long been an integral part of life in the Earth community, it can become an obstacle or even a substitute for right relationship with God. The implication in the final saying is that disciples are called to “enslave” themselves to God. Contemporary attitudes to slavery might suggest that we find more appropriate expressions for our relationship with God. Not everything in the gospel parables is to be emulated.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST 25TH 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 Fischen 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

Monday September 23rd	11.00 am	Funeral Mass St Alipius’ Church for Sr Noreen Torney RSM
Thursday, 26th September	9.30 am 11.00 am	St. Alipius’ Church Mercy Place (Corbett St)

Next Weekend’s Masses

St Alipius’ Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	28th September	6.00 pm
	Sunday	29th September	9.00 am
SS Peter & Paul’s Church, Buninyong	Sunday	29th September	10.30 am

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	Amos	6:1, 4-7
	Second:	1 Timothy	6:11-16
	Gospel:	Luke	16:19-31

Baptisms: Charlotte Cowan, Banjo Cue

Recent Deaths: Mollie Driscoll, Pat Toohey, Sr Noreen Torney RSM, Martin White

Anniversaries: Corey Fletcher

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

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests. Just a reminder to please return your envelope this 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.

School Holidays — Parish Office Closure

To all the children, families, teachers and staff of our schools, we hope you enjoy a restful and safe break over the term holidays! Please note that the Parish Office will be closed over the next two weeks and will reopen on Tuesday 8th October. Requests for the notices on the mass sheet can still be made via email or via the presbytery mail-slot. For any urgent matters please contact the Cathedral Parish Office on 5331 2933.

Social Afternoon

Social Afternoon on Wednesday, 25th September at 2pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St entrance.

Social Justice Sunday – September 29

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on September 29, 2019. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled, "Making it real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world." It shares Pope Francis' challenge to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world'. It points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this world, but active citizens shaping it. Copies of the Bishops' Statement will be available next weekend.

Season of Creation

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. Refreshments to follow.

Morning Tea to Support Ballarat Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) and the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Network present *Morning Tea and Parade of Cultures Fashion Parade*. Weds 25th September, 10-12pm. Venue: Four Corners Café 25-39 Barkly Street. Entry \$20, kids free. Cultural Dress encourage. RSVP to BRMC on 5383 0613.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 6:** K.Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck
Next Week: **Team 7:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 1240.60
Loose: \$ 300.00
Direct Debits: \$ 180.00
\$ 1720.60

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

Presbytery: \$ 539.00

Working With Children Checks & Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct

Thank you to those people who have already updated or applied for a new WWCC. Once completed, the Department of Justice and Community Safety sends a letter to the parish office confirming your update/application. Sorry, photocopies of cards are not adequate.

- ⇒ **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 WWCC application by Friday, 18th October 2019.**
- ⇒ Sign a *Safeguarding Children* Code of Conduct form by dropping into the Parish Office from Tuesday 8th October. You can request a copy via email (see front page).

Please note that Volunteer WWCC are free. Teachers may use their VIT Registration cards and provide a copy to the parish office. Many thanks for everyone's support.

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.

Thank you to the Ballarat East parishioners who are the facilitators for the Discernment gatherings that are part of the next stage of the Plenary Process—John & Kristen Clonan, Veronica Lawson RSM, Damien Macartin, Eileen Rice and Bernadette Tolan. Discernment gatherings will be held at St Alipius' on the following **Monday evenings, 7.00 pm—9.00 pm November 11th, December 2nd, February 17th and March 23rd**. Discernment gatherings will also be offered to the staff of our Catholic Primary Schools.

Plenary Council & Adult Theological Education

Over the past few weeks parishioners from all over the diocese have participated in the leadership training required to carry us into the next phase of the Plenary Council process. The Plenary Council theme for this month focuses on our Church as "missionary and evangelising". In other words, there is a deep desire among faith-filled people in this country for a better understanding of what it means to live and preach the gospel because that's what being missionary and evangelising means. Those who sent submissions to the Plenary Council asked, among other things, for affordable adult theological education and for good religious education in our schools. For the past four or five years, Fr Barry Ryan and Sr Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. These sessions are very worthwhile and very affordable. If you are interested, send your contact details (mobile and email) to Sr Veronica, email veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au and she will forward further information to you.