

Reflection on the Gospel — 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 16:19-31)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The theme of the 2019-2020 Social Justice Statement is “making it real: genuine human encounter in a digital world.” It calls us to ensure that the new digital technology facilitates rather than inhibits the spread of the gospel. The gospel reading invites us to look at the wealth we enjoy, to sharpen our awareness of the needs of those who seek to share the bounty we claim for ourselves, to notice the poor who wait for justice at our gates and seek a part in the life we enjoy. This inclusive embrace is the vision we espouse in this final week of the Season of Creation.

The gospel parable presents a nasty mega rich character using his wealth to support a totally self-centred life-style. He dresses in the finest clothes and feasts extravagantly every day. He has no concern for or interest in the destitute and badly wounded man, Lazarus, who has been cast at his gate and who longs for a share in whatever falls (‘scraps’ in our translation) from the rich man’s table. The reference here is probably to the pita bread commonly used by diners at banquets to wipe their hands. The bread would be discarded after use and snapped up by the dogs. There is a reasonable chance that, even if the servants fail to offer Lazarus the leftovers, the dogs might share with him their daily fare. Begging for food was often the sole means of sustenance for those with disabilities. Lazarus has a serious disability: he is “sorely wounded”; he is “cast” at the gate and has no capacity to prevent the dogs from licking his sores.

Lazarus dies and is transported by angels into the arms of Israel’s iconic ancestor, Abraham. In contrast, the rich man dies and suffers the torment of Hades. There is no mention of angels to transport him to the place of his ancestors. The rich man’s suffering is exacerbated by the vision of the man whose needs he ignored in life now “a long way off” in Abraham’s embrace. Earlier in Luke’s story, Jesus has declared the bent-over woman to be a daughter of Abraham. Later, he will call the toll-collector Zacchaeus a “son of Abraham”. To be “of Abraham” is to be true to the tradition inaugurated by Israel’s ancestor in faith. It is to “hear” Moses and the prophets and their call to justice and right relationship.

Riches belong, not to the few, but to the whole Earth community. If they are all -consuming, they destroy our capacity to see or hear what really matters. All the honour and status they might bring are quite worthless in the final analysis. The rich man came to this realisation too late. The occasional period of digital detox might provide us with time to reflect and to restore the balance required for the health of all on our planet.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST 26TH 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

Contact Details

Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri
Telephone: 5332 6611
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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

Thursday, 3rd October	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St) Anointing Mass
Friday, 4th October	9.30 am	St. Alipius’ Church

Next Weekend’s Masses

St Alipius’ Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	5th October	6.00 pm
	Sunday	6th October	9.00 am
SS Peter & Paul’s Church, Buninyong	Sunday	6th October	10.30 am

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	Habakkuk	1:2-3; 2:2-4
	Second:	2 Timothy	1:6-8, 13-14
	Gospel:	Luke	17:5-10

Baptism: Jessica Nightingall

Recent Deaths: Fiona Morris, Barry Healy

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.*

School Holidays — Parish Office Closure

Please note that the Parish Office is closed over the school holidays 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 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 are available in the foyer.

Caring Group Meeting

The next meeting of the St. Alipius Caring Group will be held on Friday 4th October at 10 am in the St. Alipius Hall. All welcome.

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation began on September 1 and runs through to October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis says this "is a time conducive to the praise of God for all his creatures and the assumption of responsibility in the face of the cry of the Earth." 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. All welcome.

John Molony Tribute

October 19 has been set aside as a day of tribute to John Molony, a priest in the Ballarat Diocese in the 1950s and early 1960s. The day will acknowledge John's energy and commitment to the church and the issues of his time in Ballarat. A feature of the day will be five discussion groups which will talk about some of the present day issues. Topics to be discussed are "Our Endangered planet and the Future of the Church", "The Global Population Climate and Related Issues", "Education", "Democracy and the Future" and "Human Growth and Development". People wishing to attend should register by Wednesday, October 2 with Phillip Moore ph. 0448 623 142 or phill.moore1@bigpond.com or Frank Sheehan ph. 0429 347 345 or franksheehan@bigpond.com

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 7:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan
 Next Week: **Team 8:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 1123.00
 Loose: \$ 300.00
 Credit Cards (mthly) \$ 3097.00
 Direct Debits: \$ 1275.00
 \$ 5795.00

Presbytery: \$ 596.00

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

Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment

September: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising?* Discernment gatherings for our parish will be held in the St Alipius' Hall on:

Monday evenings 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Tuesday afternoons 1.00pm – 3.00pm
11 th November, 2019	12 th November, 2019
2 nd December, 2019	3 rd December, 2019
17 th February, 2020	18 th February, 2020
23 rd March, 2020	24 th March, 2020

Discernment gatherings will also be offered to the staff of our Catholic Primary Schools.

Plenary Council & Adult Theological Education

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.

Extraordinary Month of Mission October 2019

For the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the Holy Father has chosen the theme '*Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World*'. There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 which we shall explore further in the coming weeks:

1. Prayer;
2. Witness of extraordinary people of mission;
3. Theological reflection/formation; &
4. Charity.

RCIA Diocesan & State Conferences, "It takes a village"

The diocesan RCIA Conference will be held on Friday, November 15 from 5.30pm – 9.00pm and the RCIA State Conference will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 8.30am – 4.30pm. Both events will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, Ballarat. Information available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Those attending the diocesan conference are also welcome and encouraged to attend the state conference.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

A low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Next cycle begins October 27. Register by October 12. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph 5337 7154.