

Reflection on the Gospel — 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 17:5-10)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The strength to remain faithful in the face of adversity, the capacity to forgive, and the courage to do what we ought to do without seeking recognition or reward are perennial challenges for most people. According to the Lukan Jesus, it takes faith to meet such challenges. The devastating fires in the Amazon forests and in north-eastern Australia are testing the faith of those who have devoted much of their energy, even their whole lives, to speaking truth to power about the need for action to offset the effects of global warming. And yet these people remain faithful, finding the strength to forgive and the courage to do what must be done for the sake of our common home.

Today's gospel reading brings to closure the central section of the long journey narrative that recounts the teaching of the Lukan Jesus on his way from Samaria to the final events of his life in Jerusalem. The "apostles" ask Jesus to increase their faith. Their request is in itself an act of faith. He has been telling them to be on their guard. He has been emphasising the importance of endless and unconditional forgiveness. These disciples are well aware that to keep on forgiving those who offend repeatedly is not easy. It is in this context that they ask him to increase the faith. Jesus responds by insisting that even the smallest amount of faith can work wonders. His metaphorical language stretches the imagination. Even transplanting a mulberry tree from land to sea becomes possible through the power of a faith-infused word! They have no answer to this.

Luke seems to be invoking "faith" in much the same way as does Habakkuk in today's first reading which closes with a comparison between the proud whose "spirit is not right" and the just who "live by faith" (Hab. 2:4). The Hebrew word for faith in this passage is probably better translated as "fidelity" or "faithfulness". For the Lukan Jesus, a little fidelity or faithfulness goes a long way. Among other things, it enables us to keep on forgiving even wilful ignorance and to keep on acting for justice.

Finally, Jesus puts a number of questions to his disciples, questions that align their status with that of slaves in the service of a master. His questions provide a stark contrast with an example he has offered earlier in the gospel where the slave master serves the faithful slaves (12:37). These questions are consistent, however, with his insistence that true disciples do not seek the reward of honour or recompense for their service. Jesus' followers must admit that their service is "unprofitable" in that it is no more than is required of them. Power, status, wealth acquired at the expense of others, refusal to forgive, all run counter to the path of gospel fidelity. To live by faith in our times is to be humble, forgiving, just and unremittingly attentive to the cry of the earth.

Luke 17:5-10 The apostles said [to Jesus], "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST 27TH 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

Wednesday, 9th October	9.30 am	Mercy Sisters Chapel (Victoria St)
Thursday, 10th October	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
Friday, 11th October	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	12th October	6.00 pm
	Sunday	13th October	10.30 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday	13th October	9.00 am

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	2 Kings	5:14-17
	Second:	2 Timothy	2:8-13
	Gospel:	Luke	17:11-19

Baptism: Charlie Ralston

Recent Deaths: Tim Bedggood, Kathleen Cranage, Jack Kelly, June McCulloch

Anniversaries: John Barnett, John Britt

We pray for the following who are unwell: Peter Martin, Bob Marty

*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.*

Parish Finance Committee Meeting

This group will meet on Tuesday October 8th at 6pm in the Parish Office. Members of the committee are Brett Holloway (chairman), Kathy Curran, Arnoud Goosens, Paul Jans, Tanya Hislop, Gerard McCarty and John White as well as ex-officio members Kerrie McTigue (Finance Officer) and Fr Justin.

Social Event

Social Afternoon will be held on **Wednesday, 9th October at 2pm** in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via 16 Gent St entrance.

Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This month, children will commence preparations for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The preparation will involve gatherings for parents/guardians, parent/child gatherings and a liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First gatherings will be held:

- Wednesday, October 9th 7.00pm Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear
- Tuesday, October 15th 6.00pm St Alipius' Parish School, Ballarat East
- Thursday, October 17th 6.30pm St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East

Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment — October

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful?

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia. 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

Mass at Pootilla Cemetery

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday 10th November, 9.30am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. Info: ph. 5334 0450.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 7:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien
 Next Week: **Team 9:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 588.20
 BCSF \$ 148.00
 Loose: \$ 300.00
 Direct Debits: \$ 901.00
 \$ 1937.20

Presbytery: \$ 664.00

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

October – Extraordinary Missionary Month

Pope Francis: *“Today, a new impulse to the Church’s missionary activity is needed to face the challenge of proclaiming Jesus and his death and resurrection. Reaching the peripheries – the human, cultural, and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel: this is what we call the “missio ad gentes”. We must also remember that the heart of the Church’s mission is prayer. In this Extraordinary Missionary Month, let us pray that the Holy Spirit may engender a new missionary “spring” for all those baptised and sent by Christ’s Church.”*

Loreto College Ballarat Past Pupils High Tea & Annual Mass of Remembrance

Wednesday, 6th November 2019. We invite you to attend High Tea from 2.00pm – 3.45pm in the Loreto Café (tickets \$15) which will be designed, created and served by the VCE Food Technology students. High Tea will be followed by the Past Pupils Association AGM at 3.45pm and the annual Mass of Remembrance in the Chapel at 5.00pm. RSVP Friday 25 October for catering. Book tickets online <https://www.trybooking.com/BEGUB> or (03) 5329 6137.

“Everyone has questions” — The Alpha Program

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith. To ask questions, and share their point of view in an open, friendly environment. **Alpha** is a series of sessions for adults to explore the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone’s welcome. No two Alpha programs look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. We especially welcome those who would like to inquire into becoming Catholic themselves as adults. Come and join us at the next Alpha program, commencing on Wednesday October 9th at 6.00 pm. Contact our Alpha Coordinator, Jess Salazar alpha.jess@icloud.com or St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Office 5331 2933 to register your interest. For more information go to <https://australia.alpha.org/>.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – 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 27th. Register by October 12. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph 5337 7154.

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.

St. Mary’s Primary School Swan Hill Centenary Celebrations

Centenary celebrations will begin with a Parish Mass on November 10 at 10.30am and a school Mass on Monday, November 11 at 9.15am. Tours of the school and St Mary Mackillop College will also be held on both days. More information see www.smswanhill100years.com.