

**Reflection on the Gospel-29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
(Luke 18:1-8)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel begins with a reference to prayer, a favourite theme in Luke, and ends with a question about faith. If the parable were also about prayer, as the narrator suggests, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is slow to hear the cry of the poor! There are clearly problems with this, and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has made three key additions to the story: the introductory statement that Jesus told them a parable "about the need to pray always"; the final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words; and the three questions at the end. The original parable was almost certainly told in another context and probably ended with the words of the judge. What difference might this make for us as 21st century readers? The parable has acquired different meanings as it shifted from an oral to a written context. The Lukan author fits the parable rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The scene for the verses representing the original parable is "a certain city", possibly suggesting that it is a story for any and every city. There are two main human characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea? Is it because he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary? What sort of judge would admit to having no respect for anyone, even to himself?

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. It literally reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Is Jesus drawing attention to the plight of widows in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. A system that provides no other recourse for the vulnerable of the human community and for those endeavouring to save our endangered planet simply has to change. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not at all clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that those who seem to have little power can win out in the end if they have the courage to persist in their struggles for justice.

Luke 18:1-8 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And Jesus said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Human One comes, will he find faith on earth?"

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG

29TH 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
82 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church
701 Fischen St, BUNINYONG

Contact Details

Parish Office: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350

Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri **SAP Liturgy email:** sapliturgy@gmail.com

Telephone: 5332 6611 **SAP Liturgy website:** www.sapliturgy.net.au

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.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

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Funeral Ministry: Kathy Curran & Carmel Flynn

Masses This Week

Wednesday 23rd October 9.30 am Mercy Sisters (Victoria St)

Thursday, 24th October 9.30 am St. Alipius' Church

11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)

Friday, 25th October 9.30 am St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East Saturday 26th October 6.00 pm

Sunday 27th October 10.30 am

SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong Sunday 27th October 9.00 am

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings **First:** Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19

Second: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Baptisms: Arthur Cork, Ruby Marquand, Peggy Wilkie

Recent Deaths: Zofia Buzo, Wally Gercovich, June Hunt (Simpson), Ivan Klaric, Tom Rush

Anniversaries: Felix Favalaro, Eileen Kirby

We pray for Peter Martin and Bob Marty who are unwell

Social Afternoon

At the Mercy Centre on Wednesday, 23rd October at 2.00pm. Please enter via 16 Gent St.

“Making A Scene At Christmas” Nativity Exhibition in Buninyong

This display is coming to Ss Peter & Paul's Church in Advent, 11th — 15th December. Imagine over 500 Nativity Scenes from more than 60 countries, artefacts that date from the birth of Jesus, real frankincense and myrrh on display for free. A Nativity activity centre for children will also be present. This visit is an opportunity for the community to celebrate Christmas and share hospitality with the broader community. Fiona would like to meet with any Buninyong or Ballarat East community members after 9.00am Mass on Sunday 27th October. who can support with preparation for the event and /or help during the event

November Masses of Remembrance for those who have died

- St Alipius, Ballarat East: Saturday, 2nd November at 6.00pm, & cuppa in the hall;
- Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong: Sunday, 3rd November at 10.30am, & cuppa in the hall;
- Ballarat Cemetery (all parishes) Saturday, 2nd November at 10.00am.

All Souls Day Ballarat New Cemetery Mass

Mass will be celebrated at the Ballarat New Cemetery on All Souls Day, Saturday November 2nd at 10.00am, byo chair. Following the Mass there will be an opportunity to visit graves of deceased family members and friends to pray for them. All are welcome.

Mass of thanksgiving for Bishop Shane Mackinlay (Bishop of Sandhurst)

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, Wednesday, 13th November at 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome to attend.

Singers and musicians from St Alipius' Parish are invited to join the music group which is being formed for this Mass .Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Mission Sunday — October 20th

This year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal highlights the important work of Catholic Mission in Ghana through programs designed to rescue babies and children who are vulnerable and foster their personal development for a brighter future. Appeal envelopes available this week.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 10:** E. Wilson ©, C. Stewart
 Next Week: **Team 11:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 805.70
 Loose: \$ 300.00
 Credit Cards (mthly) \$ 1400.00
 Direct Debits: \$ 250.00
 \$ 2755.70

Presbytery: \$ 678.00

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

Towards a St Alipius Parish Pastoral Council

Following last week's statement about the formation of a Pastoral Council.

In order to fulfil its role, the Pastoral Council will:

- *search out and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners*
- *grow in knowledge and awareness of what is already happening in the parish*
- *encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish* □
- *evaluate carefully information gathered in order to contribute towards the making of decisions that reflect the values of the gospel and the teachings of the Church*
- *set long-term and short-term pastoral goals for the parish*
- *provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other*
- *develop, implement and improve parish initiatives that assist parishioners in their continuing efforts to live as effective Christians in society.*

[\(Brisbane Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils\)](#).

Over the coming weeks, parishioners are invited to prayerfully discern who amongst your fellow parishioners have the gifts and capacity to be a member of the Pastoral Council enabling the Council to fulfil its role as outlined above. You will be invited to nominate them simply by putting their name forward with the reasons why you believe they would be suitable. They will then be invited to discernment gatherings to consider becoming members of a Parish Pastoral Council.

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. First discernment gatherings for our parish will be held in the St Alipius' Hall on **Monday 11th November 7—9 pm, and Tuesday 12th November 1—3 pm.**

RCIA Diocesan & State Conferences, “It takes a village”

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. Previously involved catechists & sponsors and interested parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Ballarat Friendship Walk Sunday October 20th

Ballarat Interfaith Network & Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia invite you to the Ballarat Friendship Walk at 2.00pm Central Uniting Church, 103 Lydiard Street South; 3.00pm Synagogue cnr Princes St and Barkly St South, Bakery Hill; 4.30pm Mosque at 116 Elsworth St East, Canadian. To register: bin-jcma-friendshipwalk19.eventbrite.com.au.