

**Reflection on the Gospel-30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
(Luke 18:9-14)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The parable of the Pharisee and the toll collector follows that of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Luke frames the parable with comments about being just or in right relationship (translated "virtuous") and justified (translated "at rights with God"). It is addressed to "certain people" who will find a mirror image of themselves in the first of the characters, the Pharisee. Historically, the Pharisees were honorable people, well-versed in Jewish religious traditions and faithful in observing the Law. They made up a very small percentage of the population. In the gospels, they often appear as code for religious leadership that is self-focused, contemptuous of others, and out of touch with the struggle of ordinary people's lives. In Luke, some of the Jesus' harshest condemnation is reserved for the Pharisees of the gospel.

The Pharisee goes up to the Jerusalem Temple to pray. There is no surprise in this. That is what Pharisees do. More surprising is the identification of the other person who also heads for the Temple to pray, a toll collector or tax agent, a man in the pay of the occupying forces, not exactly a person to be trusted and certainly not one connected with proper worship. The Pharisee prays "to himself" or "by himself" or "about himself": any one of the three translations is possible. He prays with his eyes cast sideways towards his thieving prayer companion. He prides himself on going beyond the prescriptions of the Law. The toll collector, in contrast, stands at a distance, eyes cast down, beating his breast, acknowledging his need for God's mercy and recognizing God as the source of compassion and forgiveness. For an audience who "have confidence in themselves that they are righteous", this portrait of the tax agent in right relationship with God is confronting. For such people, being a tax agent is synonymous with being unrighteous.

The language of the toll collector's prayer, "God be merciful (*hilasthēti*) to me a sinner", evokes the prayer of a young man of Judah who, almost two centuries before, had seen his brothers die for their faith and who was himself facing death. The young man acknowledged the waywardness of his people, praying that God would be merciful to them and deliver them from persecution (2 Maccabees 7:37). The toll collector of the Lukan parable is more in tune with the faith tradition of his people than is its respected guardian, the Pharisee. Once again, right relationship with God and others is less a matter of who we are or what we do than the spirit in which we do it. There is no room for self-righteousness in a gospel way of life. We all need to admit our failings with humility, turn to God for forgiveness, and change our ways. Right now, this is what we are called to do as a human community that has failed to respect the integrity of the natural world and has exploited it for our own selfish ends. We can learn from the tax collector.

*Luke 18:9-14 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."*

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG  
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C, SUNDAY 27TH OCT 2019**

*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 Fiskens 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](mailto:sapliturgy@gmail.com)  
**Telephone:** 5332 6611    **SAP Liturgy website:** [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)  
**Email:** [ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)    **Parish Website:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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**

<b>Monday 28th October</b>	10.30 am	St Alipius' Church (Funeral Mass)
<b>Wednesday 30th October</b>	9.30 am	Mercy Sisters (Victoria St)
<b>Thursday, 31st October</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
<b>Friday, 1st November</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church (All Saints Day)

**Next Weekend's Masses**

<b>St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East</b>	Saturday	2nd November	6.00 pm
	Sunday	3rd November	9.00 am
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul's Church, Buninyong</b>	Sunday	3rd November	10.30 am

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C**

<b>Readings</b>	<b>First:</b>	Wisdom	11:22—12:2
	<b>Second:</b>	2 Thessalonians	1:11—2:2
	<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke	19:1-10

**Baptisms:** Leo Mann, Charlie Moneghetti-Hustwaite, Amelia Reus and Harvey Rowland

**Recent Deaths:** John Bylsma, Nancy McGrath, Margaret (Marge) McGuigan, Valma Shanahan, Allen Spiller

**Anniversaries:** Ted Irvin, Eileen Power

We pray for Peter Martin and Bob Marty who are unwell

**Caring Group Meeting** Friday 1st November at 10 am in the St. Alipius Hall.  
This is our final meeting for 2019. All welcome.

**“Making A Scene At Christmas” Nativity Exhibition in Buninyong**

Advent, 11th — 15th December. 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**

The St Alipius Remembrance Mass will be held at the 6pm Saturday Mass on the 2nd November. After Mass a gathering will follow in the Hall. We would appreciate the donation of a plate to help cater for the supper.

The Ss Peter & Paul’s Remembrance Mass will be held at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 3rd November. Cuppa to follow in the hall.

**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. Practice times are Sunday, November 3 and Sunday, November 10 at 6.15pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7159.

**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?*  
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.

**Counting Teams**

This Week: **Team 11:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire  
Next Week: **Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane

**Parish:** Envelopes: \$ 615.70  
Loose: \$ 300.00  
Credit Cards (mthly) \$ 5382.00  
Direct Debits: \$ 305.00  
\$ 6602.70

**Presbytery:** \$ 756.00

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

**Towards a St Alipius Parish Pastoral Council**

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. You are invited to nominate them simply by putting their name forward with the reasons why you believe they would be suitable (as well as your own name as the one nominating). Please forward to the St Alipius’ Parish Office. Those nominated by you will then be invited to discernment gatherings to consider becoming members of a Parish Pastoral Council.

**Follow-up on the Stewardship Groups and Ministries results 2019**

As part of the Stewardship Renewal earlier this year, parishioners completed groups and ministries forms - thank you! The areas were in Liturgy and Celebration, Scripture Study/ Prayer Groups, Church Environment, Faith Development, Mission and Outreach, Community/Social, Youth, Administration/Committees, Maintenance and Other!

The area of greatest response was in Liturgy and Celebration with :

- 1 Children’s Liturgy
- 9 Commentators (is this a ministry we currently have?)
- 3 Liturgy of the Word preparation ( is this a ministry we currently have?)
- 1 Music Ministry - Choir, 1 Music Ministry Guitar & Singing
- 25 Ministers of the Eucharist
- 16 Offertory Procession
- 2 Overhead/ Data Projector
- 5 Practical help for Easter/Christmas
- 3 Prayers of the Faithful Preparation
- 23 Reading at Mass
- 15 Refreshments / Host Cuppa after Mass
- 4 Sacristan Assistant
- 5 Taking up collections
- 6 Welcome at Mass/Hand out Bulletins

Those who responded also indicated the Mass at which they were willing to be rostered and the Community (Ballarat East or Buninyong) that they attended. This highlights the importance of a Liturgy Group (this was not offered as a group or ministry?) that will coordinate each of these ministries. There is now a St Alipius Liturgy Group and we thank them as they work towards ensuring that those who have offered themselves for these ministries of Liturgy and Celebration are responded to and are rostered for these ministries. Would you like to join the Liturgy Group coordinated by David Santamaria? Perhaps you’d like to join one of the above ministries? If so please contact [sapliturgy@gmail.com](mailto:sapliturgy@gmail.com)

**Advent/Lent Discussion Group** - ten parishioners were interested. Are you? Let’s do it!

**Christian Meditation Sessions**

Amongst the groups and ministries on offer was for Meditation. Some parishioners were interested. You would be welcome at the fortnightly Meditation Sessions being held at the Central Uniting Church, Lydiard St Sth on Mondays at 7.30pm November 4 & 18; December 2 & 16. Contact Michael Hedger 0411726407, or 53740392 or email [hedger@ncable.net.au](mailto:hedger@ncable.net.au).