

Reflection on the Gospel-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 20:27-38)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Is there life after death? If so, what does that mean? Will we be united in death with those whom we have loved in this life? Do the bonds of love experienced in this life continue beyond the grave? Are our loved ones far from us in death? How do they live on, if indeed they do? These are questions that have preoccupied human beings for millennia. Our Christian faith tradition, grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, offers no clear answer to any of these questions. It simply offers a call to faith in life after death and in God as “not of the dead, but of the living.”

As the liturgical year draws to a close, the readings invite us to ponder this mystery of the bonds of love that persist, even after death, in unimagined and unimaginable way. Some Sadducees “who say there is no resurrection” put a loaded question or case study to Jesus in an attempt to expose as nonsensical the Pharisaic belief in resurrection. In the process, they try to discredit Jesus as a teacher of the Law. As usual, Jesus refuses to be entrapped. The diversity of Jewish opinion and belief reflected in this passage may come as a surprise to those who think of Judaism at the time of Jesus as a religion with a unified theological system. There was certainly agreement among the parties or sects on four key aspects of Jewish faith, namely, monotheism (belief in one God); election (Israel as God’s chosen people); Torah (the call to be faithful to the Law of Moses as found in the first five books of the Bible); and Temple (the Jerusalem Temple as the meeting place between God and God’s people). At the same time, there was room for considerable diversity. Life after death and the resurrection of the dead were among the many contested beliefs.

Recently, as I sat with a dying Mercy friend who maintained a twinkle in her eye despite her declining health, I pondered the mysteries of life and death. She knew in her heart that her loved ones who have died are “alive to God”, as the Lukan Jesus puts it. I also knew in my heart that the life she had generated and the love she had known and brought to others over the best part of a century somehow continues and is transformed beyond our imagination through the grace of the God of the living. For the moment, that is sufficient response to the reading for this Sunday. Jesus of Nazareth refuses entrapment and invites belief in a God for whom all the dead are alive. We live by faith in God and in hope of resurrection, of the transformation of every being.

Luke 20:27-38 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her." Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of God as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to God all of them are alive."

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C, SUNDAY 10TH NOV, 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

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

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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 13th November	7.00 pm	St Patrick's Cathedral (+Shane Mackinlay)
Thursday, 14th November	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
Friday, 15th November	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	16th November	6.00 pm
	Sunday	17th November	9.00 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday	17th November	10.30 am

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	Malachi	3:19-20
	Second:	2 Thessalonians	3:7-12
	Gospel:	Luke	21:5-19

Baptisms: Louis Dreher, Arlo Fitter, Quinn Melvin, Harper Stevenson

Recent Deaths: Claire McGoldrick

Anniversaries: Alexander Forbes, Patricia Towns, William (Bill) Clohesy — brother & B.I.L of Bernie (dec) and Audrey.

We pray for Kateri Byrne (Albury) and Peter Martin who are unwell

St Alipius Liturgy Rosters: copies are available at the back of the church

Plenary Council 2020: Discernment Gatherings begin

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? You are warmly encouraged to attend the first discernment gatherings for our parish on **Monday 11th November 7—9 pm**, and **Tuesday 12th November 1—3 pm** in the St Alipius' Hall. A copy of the snapshot report for this theme can be accessed [here](#) or the church foyers. Thank you to Bernadette Tolan, Damien McCartin and Kristen Murray who will facilitate these discernment gatherings.

Can you serve as a Sacristan at St Alipius?

An invitation for parishioners to consider serving as a Sacristan. We thank Ann Agni, Claire Stewart, Denise Tigchelaar, Di McKeegan, Fran Britt, Marg Shanahan and Maureen Mason who are currently serving and invite others to join this growing team (especially for the Sunday morning Masses). A training session with David Santamaria & Maureen Mason will be held on Thursday evening 21st November from 7pm — 8pm at St Alipius Church. All sacristans are required to have or obtain a Working With Children Check. *Please leave a message with the Parish Office (5332 6611) or visit sapliturgy.net.au and click the "Confirm Your Attendance" link.*

St Alipius' Church Working Bee

After 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 30th November, followed by a sausage sizzle and drink. Many willing hands will be appreciated to assist with a thorough cleaning of the church as we prepare for Advent. Jobs include: dusting of high ledges/heaters/window sills, replacement of blown light bulbs, cleaning of choir loft, pew repairs and realignment, thorough tidying/cleaning of sacristy and side room, general vacuuming. We shall also need assistance for the set up of the internal and external nativity scenes. Some cleaning material will be available but please bring along anything that might be helpful. Many thanks to Di and Kevin McKeegan who will be our coordinators.

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.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 3:** C. Tarquinio ©, M. Tarquinio
Next Week: **Team 4:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, S. Harvey
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Parish: Envelopes: \$ 788.70
Loose: \$ 300.00
Direct Debits: \$ 1140.00
\$ 2228.70

Presbytery: \$ 671.00

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

Stewardship Renewal - Parish Groups, Ministries and Organisations

Last week we highlighted the number of responses for Parish Groups, Ministries and Organisations, this week we highlight those indicating a desire for Church Environment:

- 8 Church Cleaning (4 St Alipius', 4 Ss Peter & Paul's)
- 1 Church Decoration (St Alipius')
- 1 Flower Arrangement (St Alipius')

Advent Discussion Group at Ss Peter and Paul's

Advent reflections are proposed to be held at 10:30 am on Thursdays, 28 November, 5 December, 12 December and 19 December. An evening meeting could also be possible depending on numbers. Interested people are welcome to stay for a discussion after 9.00am Mass this weekend. It is also hoped to offer a similar opportunity at St Alipius'.

An Advent Retreat experience

An opportunity for all to take some advent time on Sunday December 15th. Loreto Sisters Natalie Houlihan and Rachel McLoughlin will lead the retreat experience which will be held at St Alipius' Hall. Details to follow.

SVDP Christmas Cards & Calendars

St Vincent de Paul piety stall now have 2019 Christmas cards (\$5 for 8 cards) and 2020 Columban calendars (\$9 each) available. Piety stall is open at back of St Alipius church before and after Mass on most weekend Masses.

Save Medevac Vigil

Rural Australians for Refugees # SAVE MEDEVAC Vigil on Monday the 11th November from 11 - 12 noon outside Catherine King MP's office 5 Lydiard St North. RAR will be joined by members of Grandmothers for Refugees. For more information on the Medevac Bill please see <https://www.asrc.org.au/savemedevac/> from the Asylum Centre Resource Centre.

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. 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. Nominations close Friday November 15th 2019.

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Nomination for St Alipius Parish Pastoral Council (return by email or drop into the Office)

Name of Person being nominated.....

In what ways do you believe they are suitable (what gifts do they have that you see)?

.....
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Your name