

Reflection on the Gospel-33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 21:5-19)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifty years ago there was no Sydney Opera House. A hundred years ago there was no Harbour Bridge. It is hard to imagine a time when they did not exist or a time when they will cease to be, such is the status these monuments have acquired over a very short span of history. They are a source of wonder for tourists and locals alike. They have their counterparts elsewhere in our contemporary world. Twenty years ago, New York's World Trade Centre was another such icon, seemingly indestructible and holding the pride of an economically and politically dominant nation, even if less aesthetically engaging than Sydney's monuments.

In first century Palestine, the newly refurbished Jerusalem Temple was both aesthetically stunning and symbolically charged. It functioned primarily as the centre of religious worship. It was also an important locus of financial and political power. Its significance can hardly be exaggerated and its destruction at the hands of the Romans in 70CE was a devastating blow for the Jewish people. Luke is writing some twenty years after this event. He wants to tell his communities that the destruction of the Temple did not signal the end of the world, though that is how it might have seemed at the time. There is life to be lived and there are struggles to be endured before God's final advent. Luke wants to offer hope and encouragement in the face of conflict and persecution and family division. He wants to offer his readers a caution not to listen to everyone who claims to know the time, the *kairos*, of God's visitation.

Like Jesus, disciples can expect to be "handed over" and brought before political authorities. They are to find in this an opportunity to give witness or "to testify". In his second volume, Luke has Jesus commissioning the disciples to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). They don't have to worry about what to say in their own defence: "I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict." Endurance or patience is the way to life. The Greek term used here evokes the parable of the sower: "as for that [the seed] in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance" (Luke 8:15). In our own times, when the life of our planetary home is at stake, when the political systems we have trusted are so often manipulated by the greed of the few and when families are torn apart, we are called to witness to a gospel way of life, to hold the word of God fast in honest and good hearts and to trust that we are not alone in the everyday struggles of life.

Luke 21:5-19 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place. And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven." But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your life.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C, SUNDAY 17TH 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

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, 20th November	5.30 pm	St Pat's Cathedral (Damascus Yr 12)
Thursday, 21st November	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
Friday, 22nd November	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	23rd November	6.00 pm
	Sunday	24th November	10.30 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday	24th November	9.00 am

Solemnity: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe —Year C

Readings	First:	2 Samuel	5:1-3
	Second:	Colossians	1:12-20
	Gospel:	Luke	23:35-43

Baptisms: Alice Walker, Clay Watson

Recent Deaths: Tony Arundell, Jim Griffin, Anne Maree Seabright

Anniversaries: Andrew O'Brien, Lyn O'Brien

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

Plenary Council 2020: November Discernment Topic

*How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is **Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal**?* This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church. Our next parish discernment gatherings will be held on Monday 2nd December 7.00pm—9.00pm, and Tuesday 3rd December 1.00pm—3.00pm. Many thanks to Bernadette Tolan, John Clonan, Damien McCartin and Kristen Murray who are generously facilitating these discernment gatherings. Please come along and help shape our future.

Sacristan Training at St Alipius

Parishioners who would like to serve as a sacristan are invited to attend a training session with David Santamaria & Maureen Mason on Thursday evening 21st November from 7pm — 8pm at St Alipius Church. We particularly encourage people who are willing to minister at our Sunday morning Masses. 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

Will be held 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 like soft brooms. Many thanks to Di and Kevin McKeegan who will be our coordinators.

Please Save the Date — Anointing Mass

St Alipius' Church on Wednesday 11th December at 2.00pm

Thankyou

'A big "thank you" to all for your prayers, well-wishes, kindnesses, visits and overall support during my recent illness. God bless you all.' Bob Marty

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 4:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, S. Harvey
Next Week: **Team 5:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Parish:	Envelopes:	\$ 722.30	<i>Thank you to those who contributed to the collections last weekend</i>
	Loose:	\$ 300.00	
	Direct Debits:	\$ 145.00	
		\$ 1167.30	

Presbytery: \$ 588.00

Stewardship Renewal - Parish Groups, Ministries and Organisations

This week we look at the responses received for interest in Faith Development in our parish:

- 1 Baptism Preparation
- 1 Catholics Returning Home
- 0 GodStart Program
- 1 Parish Faith Formation
- 1 Parish Sacramental Program
- 4 RCIA

Advent Discussion Groups - *Lead Kindly Light*, Buninyong and Ballarat East

Thursdays, 28 November, 5 December, 12 December and 19 December. 10.30 am at Ss Peter Paul Buninyong and in the evenings, 7.00 pm at St Alipius. Fr Justin Driscoll will lead the first of the four meetings. All welcome.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council

Many thanks to the parishioners who have nominated others who will now be invited to consider membership of the Parish Pastoral Council. Rachel McLoughlin IBVM will facilitate a discernment evening for those who accept the invitation to participate on Monday December 16th 7pm - 9pm in the St Alipius' Parish Hall.

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.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

OLHC Parish Wendouree are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Transport is available. For bookings or further information ph. 0419 975914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – new program

Next study cycle begins January 12. Registrations open now until December 23. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407523424.

House of Welcome, Asylum Seeker Fundraiser — Annual Garden Party

Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington at 2.00pm. Entry is adults \$20.00, children free. For more information ph. 0401 175045.

YCW Cricket Club Reunion Former players, supporters, and families of the YCW Cricket Club, Sunday 1st December. Further details: Terry 0401730670 & John 0409864080.