

**Reflection on the Gospel - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 10:17-30)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Not too many of us commit murder or adultery. Not too many take hostages or give false testimony in a court of law. Most are ready to honour and care for their parents in their old age. In other words, most of us are basically decent and honest and could make the same claim as does the wealthy man who runs up to Jesus, namely that we have kept the commandments from our youth. The man's question is actually a strange one. He wants to know what he must *do* in order to inherit eternal life. He seems unaware that inheritance depends, not on what one does, but on who one is. Jesus responds to his greeting, "Good Teacher", with a reminder that God is the source of all goodness, and then lets him know that keeping the commandments is not enough. Interestingly, Jesus adds a commandment that is not actually numbered among the "ten" but is to be found in an Essene document from Qumran: "You shall not defraud". This prepares the way for what follows.

First-century Mediterranean societies were "limited goods" societies. If a person acquired wealth, it was invariably understood to be at the expense of others. The wealthy were therefore looked upon with suspicion. Although Jesus looks at the man lovingly, he may nonetheless be hinting that this person's wealth has been acquired fraudulently. Jesus offers a challenge that the man is unable to meet: to sell what he has, give the proceeds to the poor, have "treasure in heaven", and "follow" him. The man retains his possessions and acquires a burden, the burden of sorrow. To share one's goods with those in need is too hard for some, Jesus admits, but not for those who are open to the power of God at work in their lives.

The concluding verses are puzzling. In declaring that those who have left everything and followed him are to have an abundance of this world's goods as well as eternal life, is Jesus modifying his earlier position? Is he reverting to a tradition that saw wealth as God's reward for righteous living? Is he suggesting that those who share their goods find they have more than enough? It is hard to know. The twist in the tale is that they will do it hard: "not without persecution". It is likely that Mark is describing his own experience within a persecuted community of believers some forty years after the death of Jesus. The happy ones were doubtless those who took the risk of sharing their goods with those in need. Our lucky country has still to learn that lesson. Welcoming the stranger and sharing our wealth with the dispossessed may demand of us a simpler way of life. Who knows what blessings it will bring if we dare to take up the challenge?

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong
(The Parish of St Alipius, the communities of Ballarat East and Buninyong are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350
Telephone: 5332 6611
Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 15th OCTOBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 2.00 pm Funeral Mass
THURSDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Centre (Victoria St)

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Jeremiah 31:7-9
Second: Hebrews 5:1-6
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

RECENT DEATH: Ilona Takacs

ANNIVERSARIES: Robert Stevenson, Elizabeth Stevenson, Michael Casey, John Curran, James Roach, Matt Purcell, James Flanagan, Carmel Mitchell.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Lucille Hogsett, Cathy Jones.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 12: K. Bevelander©, M. Liston, G. Maguire.
Next Week: Team 1: L. Noonan©, L. Mullane, G. Clarkson.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 994.00
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>525.00</u>
		\$ 1669.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 644.00

WELCOME TO FATHER TOM BROPHY

Welcome to Fr Tom Brophy who will be celebrating masses with us this weekend. Thank you for your generosity in ministering to us and sharing in our parish life.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFO SESSIONS FOR ENROLMENT

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Sessions: The **Information Evening on Thursday 25th October at 6.30pm** will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents. An **Open Morning will be held on Thursday 1st November 9am-10.30am** with tours leaving every 15 mins. STUDENTS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. Please register your attendance online via the Damascus College website www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

EMMAUS PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING SHOPPING TOUR

Places are available on a shopping tour, visiting ten fabulous Melbourne outlet stores by bus on Saturday 27 October 2018. \$30 per person. For more information or bookings, phone Liz from the fundraising committee on 0407 812 784 or Elizabeth.allan74@yahoo.com.

MASS AT POOTILLA CEMETERY

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday 11th November, 9.30am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. Info: ph. 5334 0450.

KIDS-OFF-NAURU: GATHERING

Join *Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees* and *Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children* in a gathering to support the **Kids-Off-Nauru Campaign**. Guest speaker: Katie Shafar — nurse who once worked on Nauru. **Saturday 20th October 1pm-2pm** on Lake Wendouree foreshore near Piper's Restaurant.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Due to computer programming many of the recent statements show a pledged amount greater than the given amount. Please do not be concerned. If the given amount is **not** what you think it should be please contact the Parish Office on 5332 6611 (9.30am — 1.30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays).

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK—OCTOBER 14-21

The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to 1) Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and 2) Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. Everyone is encouraged to help reduce poverty and hardship by organising an activity during the Week or taking part in an activity organised by others. Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. In Anti-Poverty Week, YOU can help fight poverty and hardship! There are many wonderful opportunities to learn more and to become involved. Visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au for a wealth of resources.

“A MISSION FOR LIFE” PRESENTED BY FR RICHARD LEONARD

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree is hosting “A Mission for Life” presented by Fr Richard Leonard SJ from October 29-31, 2008. Topics are “Going out into the world we need all the help we can get”, “Nine steps to making better choices for my life” and “Where the hell is God - Holding on to Faith through the tough times”. Richard Leonard, SJ, is a writer and film critic who has written and spoken about cinema, culture, and faith on four continents. An Australian Jesuit with advanced degrees in theology and film, Fr Leonard is the director of the Australian Catholic Film Office. See flyer at back of church .

ST PAUL'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE ALL YEARS REUNION

Past students and staff of St Paul's, along with families and friends of the school, are invited to celebrate and remember their contributions as a foundation school of Damascus College. Please join us for a **free BBQ lunch**, exhibition basketball game, EBT (Energy Breakthrough Team) vehicle display, VCE Art Exhibit, School tours and enjoy our Commemorative Walk. **12.00pm Saturday 20th October 2018** (registration opens at 11.30am) at Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Rd, Mt Clear. For catering purposes, please register your attendance at <https://www.trybooking.com/YCSX> . EBT reunion dinner (\$65 p/h) also being held that evening with bookings through the same site.

CLOSURE OF ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH JEPARIT

Fr Peter Hudson will celebrate the Closure Mass of St Augustine's Church, Jeparit on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 1.30pm, followed by afternoon tea in the State School Hall. If you have any photos of your time in Jeparit or any history or information of the Church in Jeparit, can we please have a copy of it to the Horsham Parish Office or email to horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

OLD-TIME SINGER WANTED

Do you love to sing old-time songs? Enjoy sharing your performance with older people? Then we'd love to hear from you! Maryborough parishioners, Bob (piano-accordion & keyboard) and Rita (digital keyboard), are looking for a singer who can join their little group to entertain residents in aged care facilities, visiting places like Geelong, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo and Maryborough. No practices, just come together and enjoy participating and entertaining. Please phone Bob on 5460 4195 or email kollklan@bigpond.net.au.