

**Reflection on the Gospel-18th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 12:13-21)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Our tradition tells us that “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God” (Psalm 24). That does not stop people from arguing over possessions and even killing for them. It never has. The Iraq war should have been a lesson to the world. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There was much coveted oil and that seems to have been the covert justification for an unconscionable invasion that cost countless lives. There seems to be something deep within the human psyche that continually seeks for more. Those who seek to be “rich toward God” or “rich in God” find life. Those who seek to be rich in material possessions will simply be left, at life’s end, with a question: “To whom will this hoard belong?” The question is rhetorical and expects the answer of Psalm 24: “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God”.

Jesus is addressed as “teacher”, and is asked to force a decision in an inheritance debate. He demonstrates that he is “teacher” rather than “divider”. He tells a hard hitting story. He knows that story-telling is more effective in bringing people to life-giving decisions than is any attempt to bring down a definitive ruling, especially for those who surely know the law. His story is about a landowner who is blessed by an abundant harvest. The estate manager as well as the peasant workers and their families might reasonably expect a share in the profits, even a remission of the debts they inevitably carry. In this instance, the blessing of abundance turns the land-owner inwards rather than out towards others and so “toward God”. First person singular pronouns predominate: “What am *I* to do? *I* have no place....*I* will do this....*I* will *I* will *I* will” The futility or senselessness of stockpiling for personal gain is highlighted by the shift to second person singular, “*You* fool...”, and by the divine judgment on the landowner’s self-focus and greed. Greed appears in today’s reading from the letter to the community at Colossae. For the author of that letter, greed is simply idolatry, worship of a false god (Col 3:5).

In these times of planetary vulnerability, there is some urgency about the call to place our trust in the goodness of a generous God, to reduce our ecological footprint and to acknowledge that the good things of the earth belong to God and to all of God’s people, not just to the privileged few. In refusing to “store up treasure” for our own selfish ends, we become forever “rich toward God”. This applies to nation-states as well as to individuals. We have some responsibility for what is done in our name, for the size and deployment of our foreign aid budget for instance. The command to “be on your guard, be ever vigilant” in this respect is a demand for gospel justice.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST

18TH 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
84 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

SS Peter & Paul’s Church
701 Fiskens St, BUNINYONG 3357

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Hours: 9.30am—1.30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Telephone: 5332 6611

Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

CLERGY AND STAFF

Administrator: Rev. Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jorge De Chavez OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O’Beirne

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Bereavement Team: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 5th AUGUST 2019

MONDAY:	No Mass	
TUESDAY:	No Mass	
WEDNESDAY:	9.30 am	Mercy Convent (Victoria St)
THURSDAY:	9.30 am	St. Alipius’ Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY:	9.30 am	St. Alipius’ Church

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	10th August	6.00 PM
	SUN	11th August	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	11th August	9.00 AM

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

READINGS	First:	Wis	18:6-9
	Second:	Heb	11:1-2, 8-19
	Gospel:	Lk	12:32-48

BAPTISMS: Edward Foley, Ava Bux

RECENT DEATHS: Tony McGuinness

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Maguire

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Alison Rice, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

COUNTING TEAMS

This Week: **Team 9:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders
Next Week: **Team 10:** E. Wilson ©, C. Stewart

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

PARISH: Envelopes: \$ 872.50
 Loose: \$ 300.00
 Direct Debits: \$ 935.00
 \$ 2107.50

PRESBYTERY \$ 606.00



CONGRATULATIONS AND FORMAL WELCOME!

Bishop Paul Bird has issued a letter to the parishioners of Ballarat East (attached) announcing the formal appointment of Fr Justin Driscoll as Administrator to the Parish of Ballarat East, with Fr Jorge De Chavez OSJ appointed as Assistant Priest. Both gentlemen will also be serving the Cathedral Parish in the same capacities so it is worthy to acknowledge their generosity, capability and commitment to leadership. Our warmest welcome and congratulations to you both! Fr Vincent Pham Van Long CSsR will also be helping in the parish until the end of the year, so welcome also to you! Our parish community looks forward to building the future with you.

FR ADRIAN McINERNEY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Congratulations to Fr Adrian as he celebrates Mass this Sunday at St Alipius ahead of his Golden Jubilee of Ordination which occurs on Friday the 9th August, 2019. We thank you for your many years of leadership and friendship in our parish and diocese. God bless, Fr Adrian.

SMALL SEWING PROJECT

We are seeking some helpers to sew fringing on new Sacramental Stoles that are given to children for Baptism and then used for their later sacraments of initiation. If you can help, please contact Lucy in the parish office. Many thanks.

THANK YOU FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We wish to thank the School Communities within our Parish and all parishioners for their support to our recent Winter Appeal. As the need for our services continues to grow we are both grateful for and encouraged by your generosity.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Associate Professor Shane Mackinlay as Bishop of Sandhurst is to be held at **Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo, Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 12pm.** Formal invitation to follow.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage! Married couples, come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! This weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. **2019 Victorian weekend dates: 23-25 Aug, and 15-17 Nov.** Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James on 0409 183 676 or email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au .

PLENARY COUNCIL – NATIONAL THEME FOR DISCERNMENT #6

“How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform?” This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal. Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

PLENARY COUNCIL FINAL REPORT OF THE LISTENING AND DIALOGUE STAGE

The National Centre for Pastoral Research has just published *Listen to what the Spirit is saying*, the final report of the Listening and Dialogue stage of the Plenary Council. The report captures the voices of the more than 222,000 people who shared their submissions, questions and stories of faith during the 10-month process. Access the report at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports

GET INVOLVED – PARISH FACILITATORS SOUGHT

Expressions of Interest are sought from at least two parishioners who would be interested in being discussion facilitators for our parish as we prepare to hold open gatherings to discuss the six themes for discernment for the Plenary Council (please see the church notice boards). If you are interested, please advise Lucy in the parish office.

ST ALIPIUS' LITURGICAL MINISTRIES – WE NEED YOU!

Our liturgical ministries are needing more supporters. Training is offered. To be involved, please complete the form at sapliturgy.net.au. Click on the ‘Contact’ menu item and then *Liturgical Ministries form link*.

WE NEED YOU!	Data Projector	Offertory Procession	Readers	Special Ministers	Musicians & Singers
<u>Vigil Masses</u>	8 people	4 groups of 2+ people	4 people	4 people	3 or 4 ensembles
<u>SUNDAY Masses</u>	8 people	10 groups of 2+ people	10 people	15 people	3 or 4 ensembles

SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENINGS & OPEN MORNINGS

DAMASCUS COLLEGE: Wednesday, September 4, 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 22 at 6.30pm. **Open Mornings:** Thursday, September 12, 9.00am – 10.30am and Tuesday October 29, 9.00am – 10.30am. Register attendance for both events at: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>

LORETO COLLEGE Year 7 2021 Parent Information Evening will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7.00pm at the Mary’s Mount Centre. Applications for Year 7, 2021 enrolments close on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4.00pm. For further information please visit our website www.loreto.vic.edu.au.

ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE 2021 College Information Evening will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the OCA Pavilion. Register attendance at www.trybooking.com/BDEBO Applications for enrolment for Year 7, 2021 <http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/prospectus/>. The application closing date is Friday, December 6, 2019 at 4.00pm.