

## Reflection on the Gospel-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 14:25-33)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

*Luke 14:25 Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, 14:26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 14:27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 14:29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 14:30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 14:31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 14:32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 14:33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.*

On June 17 this year, the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development issued a letter about the Season of Creation. It noted that during this season Christians across six continents work to put into practice Pope Francis' encyclical on integral ecology, *Laudato Si'*, and "participate in community events to deepen their love for Creator, creation, and each other". As we move into the second week of the Season of Creation, we might renew our commitment to the gospel call to reverence for all that constitutes our planetary home.

As we turn to the gospel reading for today, we are confronted by the pain involved in living a way of life that respects the rights of all created beings. On the long journey from Galilee through Samaritan territory to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus attracts a huge following and teaches relentlessly about the ways of God. By the time he reaches Jerusalem, the crowds have thinned considerably. Is this because it is too hard to persist with their initial impulse to follow the way of the gospel and the one who embodies its values? Implicit in Jesus' teaching about carrying one's cross is a reminder of the intense pain and sacrifice involved in being a disciple. It sometimes means going against what other family members want. It may even involve risking one's life for the sake of others. In the context of the Roman Empire, criminals who were sentenced to die by crucifixion carried to the place of their execution the cross beam on which they would hang. The cross image is thus shocking for anyone. It is quite alienating for the faint hearted.

The term "hate" (*misein*) in this context seems harsh. The English translation fails to do justice, however, to the original Greek or to the Hebrew that underlies this biblical notion. To "hate" in biblical terms is to "leave aside". Disciples are expected to love one another. There are times, however, when they have to "leave aside" the wishes of those they love most for the sake of a gospel call to justice, compassion, and right relationship. If we are attentive to the gender bias of this ancient text, we might note that married men are addressed while married women are not. Here as elsewhere, women have to read against the grain of the text in order to hear its message. Finally, there is a call in this gospel passage to "leave aside" unnecessary possessions. In a time of planetary vulnerability and of growing division between the privileged and the marginalised of the Earth community, the teaching of the Lukan Jesus has a particular resonance. There is no place in a gospel way of life for self-indulgence, for exploitation of others, or for self-centred appropriation of the goods of the earth.

## ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST 23ND 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 Fisken St, BUNINYONG

### Contact Details

**Office 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 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

<b>Tuesday, 10th September</b>	10.00 am	Funeral Mass (Edie Noonan)
<b>Wednesday, 11th September</b>	9.30 am	Mercy Convent (Victoria St)
<b>Thursday, 12th September</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
<b>Friday, 13th September</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

### Next Weekend's Masses

<b>St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East</b>	Saturday	14th September	6.00 pm
	Sunday	15th September	9.00 am
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul's Church, Buninyong</b>	Sunday	15th September	10.30 am

### 24TH SUNDAY IN SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

<b>Readings</b>	<b>First:</b>	Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14	
	<b>Second:</b>	1 Timothy	1:12-17
	<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke	15:1-32

**Baptism:** Grace Frost (10.30 am St Alipius)  
**Recent Deaths:** Cam Denahy (QLD), Patricia Grace, Eddie Kennedy, Mark Milne, Edie Noonan, Lucy Patton, Sr Geraldine Stapleton CSB  
**Anniversaries:** Janette Pearse, Anny Strik  
**We pray for the following who are unwell:**  
 Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Alison Rice, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff, Peter Martin

### Thankyou to our priests!

You will notice from the front of our mass-sheet that along with Frs Justin Driscoll and Jorge DeChavez OSJ, our parish is also being generously supported on weekdays and weekends by Fr Vincent Pham CSsR and by visting priests, Frs Dan Arundell and Barry Ryan. Our parish warmly welcomes you all and thanks you for your ministry.

### Praying for those who are unwell

Please contact the parish office if you, or a family member, would like your name kept on or removed from our list for prayers. We shall be refreshing our list soon. Many thanks.

### 2020 Columban Calendars

2020 Columban Calendars are now available at the St Alipius' piety stall. Cost \$9.00.

### Mercy Place Open Day

An Open Day is being held at Mercy Place Ballarat, 60 Corbett St, Ballarat East to celebrate its first birthday since opening! Enjoy a tour, BBQ, live music, free cuppa and meet our friendly staff on Saturday 14th September, 11am—2pm. Register 5327 1888 or online.

### Catholic Secondary Colleges Info Evenings for Prospective Families

*Please see school websites for tours and further information*

**Damascus College** Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.30pm. Register your attendance at:

<https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>

**Loreto College** Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm. Further information:

[www.loreto.vic.edu.au](http://www.loreto.vic.edu.au)

**St. Patrick's College** Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Register your attendance at:

[www.trybooking.com/BDEBO](http://www.trybooking.com/BDEBO)

### Damacus College Bright Futures Scholarship Fundraising Breakfast

A fundraising breakfast for the Damascus College Bright Futures Scholarship will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Ballarat Golf Club from 7.00am - 8.45am. Guest speaker is Mary Darcy, Counselling & Consulting Psychologist. \$25.00 per ticket, available from <https://www.trybooking.com/BDIUX>. The scholarship will support students who may be experiencing disadvantage and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice and contribute to their local communities.

### Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 4:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, S. Harvey

Next Week: **Team 5:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds

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

Parish:	Envelopes:	\$ 856.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 845.00
		\$ 2001.20
Presbytery:	\$ 659.00	



### Ordination of Bishop Elect Shane Mackinlay

Parishioners of Ballarat East and Buninyong are warmly invited to attend the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev Shane Mackinlay as the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo on Wednesday 16th October 2019, 12.00 noon. RSVP by 16th September online [www.trybooking.com/BFGIS](http://www.trybooking.com/BFGIS). See flyer on the church notice board

### Celebrating Child Protection Week

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at [www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

A new protocol in our parish to support the protection of children who volunteer as altar servers is that all clergy, sacristans and readers who utilise the sacristy before &/or after mass, now register their attendance via sign-in sheets. In the near future, readers and collectors will be asked to obtain a Working With Children Check. More info to come.

### Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment — September

*How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising?* 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.

### Ballarat Clergy Support Fund

#### Annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – next weekend

Fifteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. The funding required for these commitments is ongoing. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

### Season of Creation

Pope Francis at his address on the World Day of prayer for Creation has urged all to join the ecumenical "Season of Creation" initiative, which runs from the Sept. 1 day of prayer through to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. An ecumenical service for the Season of Creation is being held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. Refreshment to follow. All welcome.

### Catholic Earthcare Public Lecture

Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese extends an invitation to attend a lecture "Fire and aboriginal Agriculture in Victoria" by Fred Cahir, Associate Professor of Aboriginal History, Federation University to be held at the Mercy Centre on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 7-8pm. Entry via Gent Street, Ballarat East.