

Reflection on the Gospel — 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 17:5-10)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The strength to remain faithful in the face of adversity, the capacity to forgive, and the courage to do what we ought to do without seeking recognition or reward are perennial challenges for most people. According to the Lukan Jesus, it takes faith to meet such challenges. The devastating fires in the Amazon forests and in north-eastern Australia are testing the faith of those who have devoted much of their energy, even their whole lives, to speaking truth to power about the need for action to offset the effects of global warming. And yet these people remain faithful, finding the strength to forgive and the courage to do what must be done for the sake of our common home.

Today's gospel reading brings to closure the central section of the long journey narrative that recounts the teaching of the Lukan Jesus on his way from Samaria to the final events of his life in Jerusalem. The "apostles" ask Jesus to increase their faith. Their request is in itself an act of faith. He has been telling them to be on their guard. He has been emphasising the importance of endless and unconditional forgiveness. These disciples are well aware that to keep on forgiving those who offend repeatedly is not easy. It is in this context that they ask him to increase the faith. Jesus responds by insisting that even the smallest amount of faith can work wonders. His metaphorical language stretches the imagination. Even transplanting a mulberry tree from land to sea becomes possible through the power of a faith-infused word! They have no answer to this.

Luke seems to be invoking "faith" in much the same way as does Habakkuk in today's first reading which closes with a comparison between the proud whose "spirit is not right" and the just who "live by faith" (Hab. 2:4). The Hebrew word for faith in this passage is probably better translated as "fidelity" or "faithfulness". For the Lukan Jesus, a little fidelity or faithfulness goes a long way. Among other things, it enables us to keep on forgiving even wilful ignorance and to keep on acting for justice.

Finally, Jesus puts a number of questions to his disciples, questions that align their status with that of slaves in the service of a master. His questions provide a stark contrast with an example he has offered earlier in the gospel where the slave master serves the faithful slaves (12:37). These questions are consistent, however, with his insistence that true disciples do not seek the reward of honour or recompense for their service. Jesus' followers must admit that their service is "unprofitable" in that it is no more than is required of them. Power, status, wealth acquired at the expense of others, refusal to forgive, all run counter to the path of gospel fidelity. To live by faith in our times is to be humble, forgiving, just and unremittingly attentive to the cry of the earth.

Luke 17:5-10 The apostles said [to Jesus], "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG

28TH 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

82 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fisker 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

Thursday, 17th October	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
Friday, 18th October	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday	19th October	6.00 pm
	Sunday	20th October	9.00 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday	20th October	10.30 am

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings	First:	Exodus	17:8-13
	Second:	2 Timothy	3:14 - 4:2
	Gospel:	Luke	18:1-8

Baptisms: Georgie Dwyer, Ted Pianta

Recent Deaths: Tom Vidaic

Anniversaries: Mary Cooper, Gerald Caine, Pam Caine, Vera Gittings, Sandra Vankempen

We pray for Peter Martin and Bob Marty who are unwell

Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

First gatherings for Grade 3 children within our parish will be held as follows:

- (Wednesday, Oct. 9th 7.00pm Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear)
- **Tuesday, October 15th 6.00pm** St Alipius' Parish School, Ballarat East
- **Thursday, October 17th 6.30pm** St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East

Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment — October

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia. First discernment gatherings for our parish will be held in the St Alipius' Hall on **Monday 11th November 7—9 pm, and Tuesday 12th November 1—3 pm.**

Ordination of Bishop-elect Shane Mackinlay

We offer our prayers and warmest congratulations to Bishop-elect Shane Mackinlay who will be ordained as the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst (Bendigo), Wednesday, 16th October at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. A former parishioner of Ballarat East, Shane was ordained to the priesthood at St Alipius' Church on 6th September 1991, followed the next day by celebration of his first Mass in St Alipius Church. Congratulations also to Shane's parents and our parishioners, Helen and Malcolm.

Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate Shane's Ordination as Bishop of Sandhurst will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, 13th November at 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome to attend.

Mission Sunday — October 20th

This year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal highlights the important work of Catholic Mission in Ghana through programs designed to rescue babies and children who are vulnerable and foster their personal development for a brighter future. Appeal envelopes available next week.

Invitation to Celebrate Induction of New Baptist Pastor, Buninyong

Rev. Lynton Wade will be inducted as Senior Pastor to the Congregation of Buninyong Baptist Church on Sunday 13th October at 3.00pm at the Ballarat South Uniting Church, 305 Learmonth St, Buninyong. The ceremony will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Counting Teams

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

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Parish:	Envelopes:	\$ 719.70
	BCSF:	\$ 50.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	<u>\$ 385.00</u>
		\$ 1454.70

Presbytery: \$ 419.00

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

Towards a St Alipius Parish Pastoral Council

A Pastoral Council consists of the Pastor together with a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Pastoral Council's role is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ. ([Brisbane Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils](#)). Over the coming weeks, parishioners are invited to prayerfully discern who they would like to nominate to be invited to discernment gatherings to consider becoming members of a Parish Pastoral Council. It is proposed to have the Parish Pastoral Council commissioned before the end of 2019. The Council will not replace existing committees, groups, councils or parish ministries such as the Finance Committee, School Advisory Councils, Caring Group, St Vincent de Paul Conference..., nor will it be representative of such groups. The function of the Pastoral Council will be to *enrich the quality of parish life* *provide opportunities for parishioners - to grow in holiness - to discover and live out their personal and community call to mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society.*

Working With Children Checks & Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct

Thank you to those people who have already updated or applied for a new WWCC. Once completed, the Department of Justice and Community Safety sends a letter to the parish office confirming your update/application. Please note that Volunteer WWCC are free.

Please complete WWCC application by Friday, 18th October 2019.

- ⇒ **New applications:** go to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au. Follow instructions and use below parish information for the organisation with which you are volunteering. Photograph can be taken and verified at an Australia Post outlet.
- ⇒ **Updating an existing card:** on the website, access your profile and **Add: St Alipius Parish, 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East VIC 3350, phone number: 03 5332 6611. Occupational Category:** 64 Religious Organizations.
- ⇒ **Teachers:** Please provide a copy of your new VIT cards as soon as received and notify WWCCV of our parish details.
- ⇒ Sign a *Safeguarding Children* Code of Conduct form by dropping into the Parish Office from Tuesday 8th October. You can request a copy via email (see front page).

RCIA Diocesan & State Conferences, "It takes a village"

Friday, November 15 from 5.30pm – 9.00pm and the RCIA State Conference will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 8.30am – 4.30pm. Both events will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, Ballarat. Information available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

November Masses of Remembrance for those who have died

- St Alipius, Ballarat East: Saturday, 2nd November at 6.00pm, & cuppa in hall;
- Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong: Sunday, 3rd November at 10.30am, & cuppa in hall;
- Ballarat Cemetery (all parishes) Saturday, 2nd November at 10.00am.