

Reflection on the Gospel-26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 9:38-48) -Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Sometimes we act and speak as though we have the monopoly on access to the power of God although we have no such monopoly. In today's gospel Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that God works through people of good will, irrespective of whether they are on the edge ("not one of us") or at the centre of the kin-dom of God movement. Much the same message is found in the first reading from the Book of Numbers which has Joshua, assistant to Moses, trying to exclude two men from prophesying on somewhat tenuous grounds.

Moses does not take Joshua's advice. On the contrary, he prays that the Spirit of God might "rest on" and, by implication, work through all of God's people. Both the gospel passage and the reading from Numbers seem to be warning against attempts to control or domesticate the Spirit of God. The second part of the gospel reading (9:42-48) brings a dramatic change of mood as it takes up the issue of scandalising the "little ones". The reference to "little ones" marks a return to the scene in the latter part of last week's gospel reading where Jesus takes a little child in his arms and instructs his disciples.

The horror of harming the little ones is dramatised in a series of sayings that challenge the most vivid imagination. These sayings are hardly intended to be taken literally. Cutting off offending limbs only deals with the symptoms. It may, however, offer some solace to those little ones who have suffered "scandal" or worse to know that there is no stronger condemnation in the gospels than that reserved for those who bring harm to children and to vulnerable others. We are impelled to do everything in our power to heal the hurts of the past and to create conditions that ensure the protection and safety of our children.

The provision of secure and affordable housing for vulnerable families is one response to this gospel challenge. Today is Social Justice Sunday in Australian Catholic communities. In their choice of title for the 2018-2019 Social Justice Statement, the Australian bishops remind us that everyone needs a place to call home. The escalating cost of housing and of rental properties has accelerated the problem of homelessness. Homelessness, they insist, "is a challenge for all levels of society: for government, for Church and community, and for us as individuals. Each one of us can make a difference and, when we join with others, we can be a real force for change...." To take up the challenge of addressing homelessness is to accept the invitation of Pope Francis to live the eighth work of mercy. It involves imagination and industry. It means visualising new possibilities and engaging in simple daily gestures that have the potential to bring life to the "little ones" of this world.

26TH 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
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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am Parish Church
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

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Genesis 2:18-24
Second: Hebrews 2:9-11
Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

RECENT DEATHS: Prof John Molony (Canberra).

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.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders©, M. Saunders.
Next Week: **Team 11:** E. Kennedy©, C. Stewart.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,166.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards	\$ 3,147.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>1,565.00</u>
		\$ 6,028.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 847.00



WELCOME TO FATHER KEVIN ARUNDELL

We welcome back Fr Kevin Arundell who will be celebrating masses with us this weekend. Thank you again for your generosity in ministering to us and sharing in our parish life.

UPDATE FROM FATHER PETER

We have finished the study tour and I now head for Vietnam. Finished my assignments which is great – very relieved! Holiday here I come, Love to all, Peter.

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on Friday 5th October at 10 am in the St Alipius Hall. All Welcome.

LITURGY ROSTERS

St Alipius Liturgy Rosters are available for collection near the Piety Stall.

INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS OF ST PETER AND PAUL'S COMMUNITY BUNINYONG - RCIA TEAM MEMBER REQUIRED

The RCIA program is an enriching process for all involved, catechumens, sponsors, catechists and team members. To ensure our parish RCIA program runs effectively we require a parishioner from the Buninyong community to join our RCIA Team. Currently two of the five catechumens participating in our parish RCIA program have a connection with the Buninyong community and it would be ideal to provide dismissals for these within their community. RCIA team members participate in planning and presentation of the program including organising and preparing catechists and coordinating dismissals from Ss Peter and Paul's community as well as attending monthly RCIA catechumen meetings. If you would be interested in being involved in this significant ministry please contact the Parish Office Ph: 53326611 or John Clonan Ph: 0478770598.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2018-2019:

“Social Justice Sunday celebrated on Sep 30. This year, the Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement is entitled: *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land.* www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

END OF SEASON OF CREATION 2018 TALK

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

An invitation is extended to a talk by Sr Adele Howard RSM who attended the two day conference at the Vatican on 5-6th July on the third anniversary of Laudato Si, titled “**Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth**” at St Patrick’s hall, Ballarat on Saturday 6th October at 10.30am following 10.00am Mass at the Cathedral. All welcome, tea/coffee available.

KIDS-OFF-NAURU CHILDREN'S DAY

Ballarat Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children and Rural Australians for Refugees welcome children to a day of art and fun interacting with the lakeside sculpture fest coinciding with the Biennale of Australian Art (BOAA) festival on Saturday 6th October 10am – 2pm opposite the Botanical Gardens on Lake Wendouree foreshore, near Piper’s Restaurant. Information regarding the Kids -Off-Nauru campaign and petition can be found at www.kidsoffnauru.com.

BALLARAT PLENARY COUNCIL GATHERINGS

The Ballarat Plenary Council Gatherings will take place on Wed 10th Oct, 7pm and Thu 11th Oct, 10am. Both gatherings will be held in the Ballarat Glowrey-MacKillop Hall Cathedral precinct. The gatherings provide an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. All are invited to attend.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, youth ministry, liturgy, leadership - many subjects available – 5 weeks per subject. Next study cycle starts October 21, contact us by October 12. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 5337 7125

FIND OUT ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS ABROAD WITH PALMS AUSTRALIA ORGANIZATION

Palms’ Director, Roger O’Halloran invites you to our Information Night. Hear how Palms educators, health and development personnel have exchanged skills to improve opportunity for Asian, African and Pacific communities like Timor Leste, PNG, Kiribati, Samoa, and Myanmar. This session which will provide parishioners a sense of how their professional skills can contribute to a mission of peaceful, just development. Find out where your professional knowledge can make a real, lasting contribution, or just hear more about it. Palms Info Night, Tuesday 16 Oct, 5:30 pm at Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne; www.palms.org.au/events

“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”. More information from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Flyer at the back of the church.