

Reflection on the Gospel- 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 21:33-43) -Veronica Lawson RSM

While the international community has long-since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people. Groups such as MGA (Mercy Global Action) and ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans) are taking action on behalf of those enslaved. Today's gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding. Commentators focus on almost every aspect of this parable: the landowner, the tenants, the fate of the "servants" and of the landowner's son, the interpretive comments that Jesus offers the chief priests and elders to whom the parable is addressed, the prophetic inter-texts and the allegorical elements in the text. Few consider the role or the fate of the slaves *as slaves* in the parable. Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that at the very least critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over others.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually the property of others in the community. The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the produce from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.

We can surmise that the "tenants" have legitimate grievances against the landowner. They clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy. They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another. Their treatment of the slaves is an implicit acknowledgement that the slaves represent the landowner whose demands they refuse to meet. The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors. Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves, his property. In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes. As we reflect on gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care.

BULLETIN FOR THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350
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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2017**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 5.00 pm in Mercy Ventre
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am Funeral Mass
THURSDAY: 9.30 m in Parish Church
FRIDAY: No Mass

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 A

READINGS First: Isaiah 25:6-10
Second: Philippians 4:12-14.19-20
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

RECENT DEATHS: Tess Pilkington, Dorothy Eayrs.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Britt, Vera Gittings, Sandra Van-Kempen, John Barnett.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor, Mary Martin, Maria Wilson.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 7: K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

Next Week: Team 8: B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,111.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>1,580.00</u>
		\$ 2,990.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 533.00



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

“God my creator breathe on me again, Renew me, Refresh me, extend my abilities. Body and Blood of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being, keep me well. O Holy Spirit use me. Amen”

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 11th October in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent St.

CENTENARY OF FATIMA APPARITIONS OF MARY

Evening of Recollection and Devotion

Fr Gerald Ryan will lead this evening in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Friday, 13th October, commencing with Reconciliation from 6.30 pm.

7.00 pm Fr Gerald introduces the evening.

7.30 pm Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction.

There will be a Public Square Rosary in the Rotunda near St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, 14th October at 11.00 am. The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady will be present for a short time.

See Notice Board for further details of Marian devotions.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Would the person who hands in envelopes from the St Paul's Anthiochian Orthodox Church in Dandenong please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

SUPPORTING EDMUND RICE WORKS: TIMOR-LESTE

Film luncheon “The Mountain Between Us”, plus afternoon tea, at the Regent Theatre on Sunday, 22nd October at 2.30 pm Cost: \$20.00, school students \$15.00. Contact Liz on 0417 347 262 or email lizh@iinet.com.au

RALLY FOR REFUGEES

Sunday, 8th October at 2.00 pm at the State Library, Swanston Street, CBD.

Join others on the 11.18 am train to Melbourne.

Phone Liz on 0405 736 265. See Notice Board for further details.

ST ALIPIUS COMMUNITY BALL

The fundraising committee at St Alipius Primary School are currently organising a school ball and would like to extend the invitation to the whole St Alipius Community.

When: Saturday, 21st October, 7 pm—late

Where: Victoria Bowls Club

Cost: \$30 per ticket, supper provided.

Live Band

Tickets will be available from the school office.

BALLARAT MERCY ASSOCIATES FUNDRAISER

Victoria and Abdul Film and High Tea Luncheon—Thursday 28th October at the Regent Theatre. Cost \$25.00. Raffle and Door Prizes.

Proceeds raised are for Mercy Works. All welcome.

Contacts for tickets: Ursula 0407 717 626 or Monica 0438 601 856.

EXPERIENCE LORETO COLLEGE DAY

This is an opportunity for prospective families to visit the College in “action”. You will be taken on a guided tour of the College by current students and staff who will show you the grounds and facilities and share their insight into being a student at Loreto College. Must register to attend www.loreto.vic.edu.au

- **Wednesday, 18th October from 9.00am—12.00pm**

Year 7 Information Evening—“Your Global Future as a Loreto Girl”

This is an opportunity for parents to meet staff and students and to experience the key elements of a Loreto Education, including curriculum detail and how we value, educate and empower young women for their global futures.

- **Monday, 23rd October from 7.00 pm at Mary's Mount Centre**

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
OF MERCY EDUCATION ON OUR BEAUTIFUL SITE**

Date & Time: Saturday, 28 October 2017, 2 pm—5 pm

Registration: Opens at 1.30 pm. Please arrive early to find a car park and register

Refreshment: Afternoon tea will be provided

Venue: Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear

RSVP: Friday, 27th October.

Register your attendance at www.damascus.vic.edu.au