

**Reflection on the Gospel-16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 10:38-42)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The story of Martha and Mary has been interpreted fairly consistently over the centuries. Mary's silent contemplative pose at the feet of Jesus has been affirmed while Martha's action-oriented focus has been seen as a less desirable Christian stance. To be a "Mary" is to "choose the better part". To be a "Martha" is to be "anxious and distracted about many things".

In recent times, some interpreters have re-evaluated this reading of the Martha-Mary story. They have drawn attention to the many voices that inform the gospels and have suggested that this particular text reflects a struggle in early Church communities over the role of women in leadership and ministry. One voice in the text comes from those who want to downplay the initiative of women like Martha and to affirm the silence of women like Mary. The same voice functions to pit the two women against each other and to cast Jesus in the role of arbiter between them, approving Mary's choice against Martha's. This voice has had the effect of creating a false dichotomy and of reducing the women characters to exemplars of active ministry on the one hand and of quiet contemplation on the other. In other words, the negative judgement of Luke's Jesus reflects the views of a certain group in Luke's house churches rather than the words of Jesus of Nazareth.

A more women-friendly voice in the text presents Martha as the householder who welcomes or receives Jesus into her household church. This is possibly the voice of a circle of women disciples who preserved memories of women like Martha and Mary in less divisive ways. For these women disciples, Martha is a generous host who uses her resources for the sake of the community. She welcomes those who share faith in Jesus and who listen to his words, among them her sister Mary. The designation "sister" does not necessarily denote blood relationship. Mary may be one among many sisters and brothers in faith who gather to hear the teaching of Jesus and to share Martha's hospitality. According to the narrator, Martha is "pulled in every direction" (*periespato*) by many ministerial tasks (*peri pollēn diakonian*), and most leaders or church workers can sympathise with her in this. There is no indication in this description that she is distracted. This is in contrast with the subsequent evaluative comments of the Lukan Jesus. Coming from the lips of Jesus, the expression "anxious and troubled by many things" services a negative interpretation of Martha's exercise of leadership in the community.

This story is problematic in many ways. It forms part of a broader Lukan canvas where women provide the model for leadership but are more often than not excluded from its exercise. This is in stark contrast with the ways that women are presented elsewhere in the gospels, especially in the gospel of John.

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST**

**16TH 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Email:** [ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**SAP Liturgy website:** [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**CLERGY AND STAFF**

**Administrator:** Rev Kevin Maloney VG **Parish Coordinator:** Lucy O'Beirne

**Child Safety Officer:** Roxanne Leed **Finance Officer:** Kerrie McTigue

**Bereavement Team:** Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

**WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 22nd JULY 2019**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass	
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass	
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.30 am	Mercy Convent (Victoria St)
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	27th July	6.00 PM
	SUN	28th July	10.30 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	28th July	9.00 AM

**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C**

<b>READINGS</b>	<b>First:</b>	Gen 18:20-32
	<b>Second:</b>	Col 2:12-14
	<b>Gospel:</b>	Lk 11: 1-13

**RECENT DEATHS:** Tony Purcell, Sr Paulina (Joan) Fitzpatrick RSM (Melb)

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**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.

## FINANCE

### COUNTING TEAMS

This Week: Team 8: J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien (Jim Moran assisting)

Next Week: Team 9: P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$	946.20
	Loose:	\$	300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	500.00
		\$	1746.20
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>		\$	602.00



We welcome and pray for Daisy Moroney and Jose Echeverria who will be baptised in the parish this weekend.

### THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO FATHER KEVIN

A very warm thank you is extended to Father Kevin Maloney for so generously and capably acting as administrator of our parish in recent weeks. Fr. Kevin will now enjoy a well-earned rest following the celebration of masses this weekend.

### EVENTS

A social afternoon will be held on Wednesday 24th July in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

### MERCY ASSOCIATES' FUNDRAISER

Mercy Associates are holding a fundraiser for McAuley Community Services for Women on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at the Regent Theatre Ballarat, 10.00am. Tickets are \$25.00 for "The Lion King" movie and high tea. Raffle and door prizes also. For tickets or more information contact Ursula Diamond-Keith, ph. 0407 717626 or the Mercy Office, ph. 5331 7774.

### SS PETER & PAUL'S COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT

**Soup and Sandwich/Savoury Brunch after 10.30am Mass this Sunday 21st July.** Soup will be provided. If you are bringing a plate, sandwiches or savouries would be really appreciated, thank you.

### YESS YOUTH GROUP INVITATION

YESS is the St Pat's Cathedral parish youth group where 13-18 year olds can come together each fortnight to share a meal, play games, join conversation, praise and worship, and celebrate their faith. The first session in Term 3 will be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of July. Interested families are warmly invited to contact youth leaders Felicity Liston, Emily Walker, and Cecilia Streckfuss at [yessballarat@gmail.com](mailto:yessballarat@gmail.com) or search 'YESS St Pat's Ballarat' on Facebook.

## LITURGY ROSTERS

Thanks to all those who have advised that they are happy to continue participating in the liturgical ministries at St Alipius. There are about 60 people who continue to be involved at St Alipius; but did you know that at each Mass we have about 12 people involved? That makes 24 people each weekend at St Alipius. **We need at least 90 people** involved in the liturgical ministries to avoid some members of the community being too heavily committed, especially for our Sunday morning masses. We still require more parishioners to participate in all ministries including computer operators, procession of gifts, reading, special ministers and singers/musicians. If you know someone who might be interested in being involved or if you are prepared to attend a training meeting during August and be involved with the liturgical ministries, please complete the questionnaire online at [sapliturgy.net.au/liturgy-rosters](http://sapliturgy.net.au/liturgy-rosters).

### PLENARY COUNCIL

#### *Plenary Council – National Theme for Discernment #4*

"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. Find out more at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### DAMASCUS COLLEGE — INFORMATION EVENINGS & OPEN MORNINGS

**Damascus College:** Wednesday, September 4, 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 22 at 6.30pm. **Open Mornings** will be held on Thursday, September 12, 9.00am – 10.30am and Tuesday October 29, 9.00am – 10.30am. Students of all ages are welcome to attend. Register attendance for both events at: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>

#### DAMASCUS COLLEGE PERFORMANCE, "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 IN DAYS"

This year's Damascus College school production will feature a highly visual style that incorporates elements of classic farce, storytelling and crazy transformation. The sheer spirit of theatrical imagination will combine with the great industrial age to produce a fun show that promises to take an audience around the world in eighty days. A small cast of 17 performers play over 50 characters in this madcap adaptation of Verne's globetrotting classic. Perfect for adults, families and children of all ages. Performances are from July 24-27, 2019. Tickets at: [www.damascus.vic.edu.au](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au)

#### DAMASCUS COLLEGE BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

Damascus College is excited to launch the Bright Futures Scholarship which supports students and families who are experiencing financial or personal disadvantage and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice and their community, but may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education - further information regarding the scholarship can be found at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-scholarships>. A fundraising breakfast for this 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>