

**Reflection on the Gospel-21st Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 13:22-30)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Some people seem to have an ingrained sense of entitlement. They put themselves first without regard for the sensitivities or rights of others. Whether their behaviour derives from childhood experiences of over-indulgence or from some other source, it can be quite divisive and even destructive of family or workplace or community. Those who put themselves first will often find themselves last in that they are tolerated at best rather than welcomed into most circles.

As Jesus moves from town to town on his way to Jerusalem, “someone” puts a question to him. The question is about salvation: “Are only the few saved?” Jesus treats this as a rhetorical question that presupposes an affirmative answer. His answer could be interpreted as affirmative, even if it is a far cry from the expected response. The questioner rightly assumes that God is the one who saves. Jesus responds with a reminder that God’s saving action cannot be taken for granted. One must “strive to enter the narrow door”. Hard work is involved in ensuring that God’s saving power is there for God’s world.

While the question comes from one person, Jesus’ response is “to them”. The insistence of people in the crowd that they have eaten with him may suggest they are among those who have been following him from Galilee. They may even be those who objected to Jesus’ table companions, the tax-collectors and sinners (Luke 7:34). The text makes it clear that they have heard his teaching: “You taught in our streets”.

Jesus’ reply indicates that the tables have turned. It would come as no surprise to a Jewish audience to hear Jesus stating that the kin-dom belongs to Israel’s ancestors and to all the prophets. Jesus’ assertion that it also belongs to those who come from far and wide, “from east and west and north and south”, might be less than palatable to those who see themselves as “first” in the schema of salvation.

Those who share in the banquet in God’s kin-dom, the “saved”, have prevailed in the struggle to enter through the “narrow door”. Entry is by no means restricted to Israel’s forebears. It belongs to all who hear the word of God and put it into practice. The inclusion or “salvation” of outsiders will cause grief among “evil-doers”. These flawed individuals include those who have eaten with Jesus and who have heard his teaching without effect and who, consequently, have failed to commit themselves to the struggle to establish God’s reign of justice and peace and reconciliation. There is no privileged access to salvation on the basis of birth or race or any other contingency. While the “door” to salvation may be “narrow”, the Lukan Jesus has already declared that it is open to all who hear the word of God, to those who “hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance” (8:15).

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST

21ST 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 3357

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri
Telephone: 5332 6611
email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAP Liturgy email: sapliturgy@gmail.com
SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au
Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

CLERGY AND STAFF

Administrator: Rev. Justin Driscoll
Parish Coordinator: Lucy O’Beirne
Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jorge De Chavez OSJ
Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed
Bereavement Team: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2019

WEDNESDAY:	9.30 am	Mercy Convent (Victoria St)
THURSDAY:	7.30 am	Fathers’ Day Mass Damascus College Chapel
	9.30 am	St. Alipius’ Church
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY:	9.30 am	St. Alipius’ Church

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	31st August	6.00 PM
	SUN	1st September	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	1st September	10.30 AM

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

READINGS	First:	Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29
	Second:	Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
	Gospel:	Luke 14:1, 7-14

BAPTISMS: Rossi Amendola, Chad Hutchinson

RECENT DEATHS: Carmel Carmody, Sean McKinnon

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, Eileen O’Meara, Peter Martin, Sr Barbara Lemke RSM

COUNTING TEAMS

This Week: **Team 2:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell
Next Week: **Team 3:** C. Tarquinio ©, M. Tarquinio

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 560.40
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$ 3157.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 350.00
		\$ 4367.40
PRESBYTERY		\$ 771.00



BISHOP PAUL'S MEDIA RELEASE — CARDINAL PELL APPEAL

The outcome of Cardinal Pell's appeal against his conviction on historical child sexual abuse charges is the culmination of months of uncertainty during which many people in our community have experienced conflicting emotions.

I recognize that the whole process of the trial, conviction and appeal have been distressing for many in the community, particularly for victims and survivors of abuse and their families. Publicity and discussion of sexual abuse often causes pain for victims of any abuse and this will be an extremely difficult time for many.

There is a special impact on those of us who live in Ballarat because of Cardinal Pell's connections with this city.

This is also a troubling time for our Catholic community throughout the whole Ballarat diocese, not only because of Cardinal Pell's connections with our diocese but also because the entire Church community is again confronted by the terrible history of abuse of children and the breach of trust that that abuse involved.

Anyone who is needing support at this time is encouraged to contact the following agencies: Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 53203933; Ballarat Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigations Team (SOCIT) 53366055; Lifeline Ballarat 53224996; or the Diocese of Ballarat Professional Standards Office 53377121.

SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENINGS & OPEN MORNINGS

For more information, please see the school websites.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE: **Information Evenings:** Wednesday, September 4, 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 22 at 6.30pm. **Open Mornings:** Thursday, September 12, 9.00am – 10.30am and Tuesday October 29, 9.00am – 10.30am.

LORETO COLLEGE: Year 7 2021 Parent Information Evening will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7.00pm at the Mary's Mount Centre.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE: 2021 College Information Evening will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the OCA Pavilion.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?!

Volunteer Food Van Collection Driver(s) for the Salvation Army

Driver(s) required during the week to collect SecondBite food collections for emergency relief from major supermarkets. Good driving record, light lifting required and volunteer role suitable to fulfill Centrelink requirements. Interested? Contact John 0478770598

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH VOLUNTEERING

Since 1991 the OLHC Parish Wendouree has hosted a Christmas Day Lunch. On average around 140 people who otherwise would not be experiencing a traditional Christmas Day meal sit down in a joyous Christmas Spirit to a roast meal and dessert. Assistance is required with planning this event. If you may be in a position to assist in some way an information evening will be held on **Thursday August 29th at 7.00pm** in the Wendouree Parish Centre (to the left of the Church Car park). Your volunteering is not contingent upon your being available on Christmas Day. Enquiries Sandra 0438448942.

KEEP THIS DATE FREE - FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH 6PM

Father Robert McCulloch is presenting "PERSECUTED FOR THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH" at Nazareth House Ballarat Hall in Mill Street at 7 pm. Entry by donation. He will celebrate Holy Mass preceding this at 6pm in St Anne's Chapel. All welcome. Inquiries 0401 175 045

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY — SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

We invite your contributions for the final issue of Our Diocesan Community (ODC) Issue 3, 2019. *Plenary Council 2020* has been our theme during 2019. We are hoping to gather stories and examples of new initiatives and experiences in the Catholic community – schools, parishes and agencies - from all around the diocese. We also invite you to share significant events that may have taken place over the last few months in your parish and school communities and agencies. We hope to have this issue of "Our Diocesan Community" delivered in the week beginning October 14 so the latest date for submissions to this issue is Friday, September 6. Articles should be approximately 250 words maximum in length and accompanied by photos where possible. Photos should be sent as separate JPEG files (NOT inserted into a Word document). Material can be sent to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au. A reminder that when sending in photos, permission should be sought from those in the pictures. From time-to-time, these photos will also be used in other diocesan publications.

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

"Inner Peace in Friendship with Jesus" is a retreat held over 4 weeks and is excellent for busy people, as your prayer is done alone at a time and place convenient to you. Weekly gatherings will be held at St Alipius Hall, Victoria Street, Ballarat. The retreat is free but you will need to buy a book which costs \$25.00, payable when you apply. Please don't let the cost deter you, contact Rachel or Doreen. Application forms are available from the Cathedral Office or you can contact Rachel McLoughlin ibvm, 0437061337 or email rachel.mcloughlin@loreto.org.au or Doreen Roache, 0417117382 or email doreenroache@bigpond.com

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH WARRNAMBOOL CELEBRATIONS

All are invited to the celebrations to mark 130 years since the completion of St Joseph's Church Warrnambool. Mass will be held on Friday, September 13, 2019 at 7.00pm followed by refreshments. On Saturday, September 14 at 10.30am a commemorative tree will be planted. Following this will be a tour of the Warrnambool Cemetery to honour those who have served the parish over the years. For more information contact St Joseph's Parish Office, ph. 5562 2231.