

Gospel Reflection— Sunday in Ordinary Time 11C (Luke 7:36-8:3)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

A foot massage is a very intimate experience. It sometimes has sexual connotations, though not always. In some cultures, such as Timorese and some Middle Eastern cultures, children massage the feet of their parents and grandparents as a matter of course. It is rare, however, in any culture at any time, for a woman to come in off the street, to weep profusely over the feet of a little known man, and to massage his feet with perfumed ointment. So what is happening in the first story in today's gospel? What does Luke want to say about Jesus, about the woman, and about Simon the Pharisee who is hosting the dinner where all of this happens? Why does Jesus accept and even affirm such activity on the part of a woman who is identified as a sinner in the city?

The story itself provides a number of clues to understanding. This unnamed woman demonstrates that an extraordinary measure of forgiveness sets one free to love in ways that might appear excessive. Unlike Simon the host, she has already recognised that Jesus is the prophet of God. Simon has little love in his heart: he has not yet experienced the need for forgiveness and fails to recognise God's prophet. Not only does Jesus accept the continuous outpouring of the woman's tears as well as the touch of her hands and her hair on his feet. He actually affirms the goodness of her actions and compares them with Simon's neglect as host. In effect, this woman becomes host to Jesus, offering him the hospitality he has been denied.

The story of the forgiven woman gives way to the story of a group of women who take to the road with Jesus and the "twelve" and contribute their resources for the sake of the mission. These courageous Galilean women have known the healing power of God. The reference to the number seven suggests that Mary of Magdala has been perfectly healed. She becomes the lead figure in this circle of prophetic women. Two other women are named. Joanna is identified as the wife of Herod's steward, Chuza. She is no stranger to business affairs. Susanna is not otherwise identified: maybe she is known to Luke's community and requires no further identification. The subsequent narrative indicates that the women remain in the company of Jesus all the way to Jerusalem, that they witness his death and burial and bring the message of the resurrection to the "apostles" who refuse to accept their word. Women continue to bring the message of the resurrection, to share their resources for the sake of the mission and to live in fidelity to the gospel. We might well ask why it is that official decision-making for the universal church remains closed to women.

BULLETIN for THE 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 13th JUNE 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	10.30 am - Funeral Mass
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY:	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Zech 12:10-11
	Second:	Galatians 3:26-29
	Gospel:	Luke 9:18-24

RECENT DEATH: Ernie Auchettl.

ANNIVERSARIES: Rosalie Barry, Teresa Tung, Gerard & Brenda Landrigan, Bill & Elsie Quinn, Bill Murphy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Margaret Gallagher, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Christian Ashby, Tom Ballinger, Robert Stevenson, Gerard Molloy.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: .**Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 3,094.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,287.00</u>
		\$ 4,681.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,150.00

VICTORIAN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

A fundraising concert will be held at **Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong on Sunday, 26th June at 2.00 pm.** Advance bookings are strongly recommended as a sell out is likely. Contact John & Geraldine White on 5341 2675 or 0402 808 299. Tickets **\$30.** Afternoon tea provided. **Tickets will be available for sale after all Masses next weekend.**

ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER **Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**

Please come along and hear how former child soldier from South Sudan, Isaac Moses, a Ballarat resident has risen from the trauma of war and displacement, to become an Australian citizen and student of Social Work at Federation University.

Wednesday, 22nd June at 12.30, Nazareth House Hall, Mill St, Ballarat. Entry \$20. Conc. \$15. Cake stall and competitions.

All welcome - especially children. Enquiries - Carmel: 5332 2103 or 0401 175 045; annekav123@yahoo.co.uk or

http://www.parramattamercy.org.au/images/logos/how_logo.jpg

A pre-election letter writing session in support of refugees will be held this **Tuesday, 14th June, at the Eastwood Centre (behind Woolworths & Coles) from 10.00 to 12.00 noon.** Please bring your own writing materials. Enquiries to Kath on 0403 565 667. Details of Refugee Week (June 20-26) can be seen on the notice board.

ST. ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS

Are available for collection this weekend.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our "Rethink Homelessness this Winter" appeal. To give you some indication of the work of SVDP locally we share with you the following statistics.

In the first five months of this year the Society has distributed support to the value of \$244,000 within the Ballarat area. 82% of this was for food aid. During this period we have experienced a 12% increase in the number of people seeking assistance.

We are most grateful for the support we received from our parish as it enables us to continue our support for those in need.

Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall.

All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Ballarat Diocese has initiated a Lay Pastoral Ministry Program that offers opportunities for formation, study, support and accreditation for lay workers, both employees and volunteers, in the diocese. Full information is on the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (under Services & Agencies/Pastoral Ministry) or you can contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125 or email:

amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR **Kalumburu Mission**

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist in its important work as an Administrator for Kalumburu Mission. Ideally suited to a couple, the role requires: Management/administration skills; good people skills; church commitment; practical skills; experience working closely with Aboriginal people; a good sense of humour and being prepared to go the extra mile, this is not a 9 - 5 position; able to commit to a minimum period of one year. Package includes accommodation, living costs and a stipend.

You can learn more about Kalumburu Mission on www.kalumburumission.org.au. For further details, and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator.