

**Reflection on the Gospel-17th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 11:1-13)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

This Sunday's gospel offers three little cameos about praying and about God's generous giving. There are two teachings on prayer forming a frame around an enigmatic parable. In the first cameo, Jesus has finished praying and one of the disciples asks him to teach them to pray. Jesus responds as any devout first century Jew might respond. He evokes the words of the Jewish blessing prayer: "May the great name of God be exalted and sanctified, throughout the world. May God's kingship be established in your lifetime." Jesus calls God "father", a metaphor or image denoting the saving power of God over against the destructive power of the Roman emperor.

The prayer continues with an acknowledgement that bread, the fruit of the earth, is the gift of God: "Keep giving us each day the bread we need." This is not a prayer for more than is needed, but for just as much as is needed to sustain Earth's beings. The final petitions in the prayer are for forgiveness of sin "as we forgive each who is in debt to us" and for freedom from testing. We cannot live without the peace of mind that comes from forgiving, from being forgiven and from the knowledge that God is with us in times of trial such as the present ecological crisis with all its demands for radical change.

The parable that follows has raised questions for interpreters. Is it about persistence or about avoidance of shame? These are two very different concepts, but both have been suggested as the motive for the sleeping neighbour's response to the friend in need and as the proper rendering of the Greek word *anaideia*. The literal meaning of *anaideia* is avoidance of shame. This makes sense in a culture where anyone would be shamed by refusal to help a neighbour unable to meet the demands of hospitality, especially where one could well find oneself in similar need some time. No one would dream of refusing such a request for help, whether for the sake of friendship or to avoid being shamed, not even those who let it be known that they resent having to get out of bed in the middle of the night.

Persistence in prayer is a desirable quality but it has nothing to do with the parable of the friend in need who asks only once for "three loaves" and can expect to receive them. The translation "persistence" seems to derive from association with the repetition of seeking and searching and knocking, in other words with the sayings that form the third little cameo. Here Jesus draws on the experience of his listeners: if flawed disciples know how to give "good gifts" to their children, then they should not be surprised that those who ask for the Holy Spirit will receive this best of all gifts from God as they seek to renew the face of the Earth.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST

17TH 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

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

CLERGY AND STAFF

Administrator: Fr Justin Driscoll

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Bereavement Team: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 29th JULY 2019

MONDAY: No Mass

TUESDAY: No Mass

WEDNESDAY: 9.30 am Mercy Convent (Victoria St)

THURSDAY: 11.00 am Anointing Mass—Mercy Place (Corbett St)

FRIDAY: 9.30 am St. Alipius' Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	3rd August	6.00 PM
	SUN	4th August	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	5th August	10.30 AM

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

READINGS	First:	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23
	Second:	Col 3:1-5, 9-11
	Gospel:	Lk 12:13-21

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Dunn, Norman & Jane Perkins, Nancy Flanagan, Mary Carter, Molly Flanagan, Patrick Roach, Joseph Roach.

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, Tony McGuiness.

FINANCE

COUNTING TEAMS

This Week: **Team 9:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders

Next Week: **Team 10:** E. Wilson ©, C. Stewart

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1058.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards	\$ 5977.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 385.00
		\$ 7720.00
PRESBYTERY		\$ 625.00



We welcome and pray for Florence Davies who will be baptised this weekend.

WELCOME

A very warm welcome is extended to Fathers Justin Driscoll and Jorge De Chavez who will be celebrating masses with our parish community over the next few weeks. Fr Justin will be well known to many and is kindly acting in the capacity of our Parish Administrator during this time. Fr Jorge is a priest of the Oblates of St Joseph who has come from the Philippines to minister in the Diocese of Ballarat, having previously been appointed in the Parish of Albany in the Diocese of Bunbury, Western Australia. It is our pleasure to have you both share time with our parish! It is anticipated that Fr Justin will have news of a new Parish Priest appointment next weekend.

FR SHANE MACKINLAY APPOINTED AS BISHOP OF THE SANDHURST DIOCESE

It is with much joy and pride that our parish celebrates the appointment by Pope Francis of former parishioner, Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay, to Bishop of the Sandhurst Diocese in mid-October! To parishioners, Helen and Malcolm Mackinlay, Shane's parents, we also extend our warmest congratulations! Shane attended St Francis Xavier Primary School in Grs 5 & 6, then attended St Patrick's College, Ballarat where he was dux. In 1991, Shane celebrated his ordination to the priesthood at St Alipius' Church. During his time in the parish, Shane and his family were familiar faces within the Ss Peter & Paul's community, and Shane was also a leader of the Parish Youth Group. Locally, Shane has been the Parish Priest of Sebastopol, a lecturer of Philosophy at Aquinas, ACU, has served as Secretary to the Bishop, has been a Consultor to the Bishop, and is currently the Chair of the Bishop's Advisory Council. From 2012 to 2014, Shane was the spokesperson for the Catholic Church during the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations. Having made an immense contribution to our diocese and beyond, Shane will now complete his current roles as Parish Priest of Bungaree, visiting priest for the Gordon parish, and Master of the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. Please keep Shane in your prayers as he prepares to undertake this new appointment.

FR. ADRIAN MCINERNEY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Fr Adrian will be con-celebrating our **9.00am parish Mass next Sunday, the 4th August at St Alipius' Church** ahead of his Golden Jubilee of Ordination which occurs on Friday the 9th August, 2019. Our parish is delighted for you, Fr Adrian, and we thank you for your many years of leadership and friendship in our parish and diocese! God bless you Fr Adrian.

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring group will be held on Friday 2nd August at 10 am in the St. Alipius Hall. All welcome.

PLENARY COUNCIL

Plenary Council – National Theme for Discernment #5

"How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community?" This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in [action and to recognise Jesus](#). Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

GET INVOLVED – PARISH FACILITATORS SOUGHT

Expressions of Interest are sought from parishioners who would be interested in being a Plenary Council Facilitator for our parish. We are seeking two or more people who will need to be skilful in 'opening up' discussions that will focus on the six themes for discernment. Each parish of Ballarat will host one theme, so please consider which theme interests you most. Training will be provided and no distinct knowledge is required. This represents a wonderful opportunity to be involved in shaping our future church. Please provide your name to Lucy in the parish office in the coming week.

LITURGY

Copies of the next liturgy roster for St Alipius' parishioners are now available at the back of the church for those who need a paper version.

TRAINING SESSION FOR READERS AND SPECIAL MINISTERS

The Liturgy Committee is running a training session for readers and special ministers on **Wednesday August 14 from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Alipius Church**. *All new people need to attend; those who'd like a refresher are welcome. If you are an apology, please let us know using the form on the website*. To register to attend the training session (or advise us of your apology), please complete the form at sapliturgy.net.au. Click on the 'Contact' menu item and then the *Training Session form link*.

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 BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

A fundraising breakfast for the Damascus College Bright Futures 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>