

**Reflection on the Gospel-20th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 12:49-53)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Prophets can get a hard time, as today's first reading demonstrates (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10). This is almost certainly because they tend to disturb the peace of the complacent as we find in the gospel reading. Jesus, the Lukan prophet, seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point in the gospel story. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (1:79 and 2:14). He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the homes they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division: his hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be?

The Lukan Jesus is probably describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept.

There is a sense of urgency in the text. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed in 3:16 takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy descends on all God's people, young and old, female and male, slave and free (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced the effect of the all too frequent bush fires in our part of the world can appreciate the power of this image. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We need to struggle with its ambiguity.

BULLETIN for THE 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 15th AUGUST 2016**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	2.00 pm Funeral Mass for Margaret Mary Bishop
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	12.00 noon - St. Alipius Feast Day
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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Isaiah 66:18-21
	Second:	Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13
	Gospel:	Luke 13:22-30

RECENT DEATHS: Fr. Brendan Davey, John McCarty, Tess Maguire, Margaret Mary Bishop, Mark Timmins, Mary O'Brien (Shepparton).

ANNIVERSARIES: Alan Quanchi, Hilda Duggan, Mervyn Roach, Leo Roach, Mary Roach, Dennis O'Driscoll, Ethel O'Driscoll, Jim Caddy, Margie Goldsmith, Marbeth Torpy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Margaret Gallagher, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Gerard Molloy, Peter Clohesy, Kaye Tuddenham.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

Next Week: .**Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 2,570.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,275.00</u>
		\$ 4,145.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 612.00



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT - FR. BRENDAN DAVEY

Vigil Prayer Tuesday, 16th August at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

Funeral Mass Wednesday, 17th August at Immaculate Conception Church, Ararat with committal to follow at the Ararat Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Vincent de Paul Ararat would be appreciated.

MELBOURNE SINGERS OF THE GOSPEL

Are giving a concert on **Saturday, 20th August at 3.00 pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church.**

All proceeds will go to UnitingCare Ballarat's Homelessness programs, including Breezeway.

Last year 1600 families or individuals made contact with UnitingCare Ballarat seeking housing assistance, and at present there is a campaign in Ballarat to halve the homelessness by the year 2020.

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. You can commence in either late August or in October (or next year). If you are interested, please first check out the details on the diocesan website (link at bottom right of front page), then contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125, email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

"WELCOME ALL"

As a school body the strives to "**Welcome All**" within our community , Emmaus Catholic Primary School has been working towards hosting an event to "**Celebrate our Diversity**" with people from Ballarat/Buninyong of different faith backgrounds including Christian, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

We would be honoured if parishioners of St Alipius would also join us for this Occasion and partake in the sharing of friendship, food and faith.

Date: Sunday, 21st August 2016

Time: 12 noon—2.00 pm

Venue: Emmaus Catholic Primary School - Multi-Purpose Facility ("Wayaperri")

If anyone is interested in joining us for this celebration, please contact our school by Friday, 19th August on 5330 2266 to assist us for catering purposes.

19th YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE PILIPINO ROSARY GROUP

You and your friends are cordially invited to join us for Holy Mass this Sunday, 14th August at St James Catholic Church, Sebastopol at 6.30 pm. Please join with us for fellowship dinner afterwards. Contact Shirl 5338 1266 or Urbana 0419 558 965.

BOMBS, BLASPHEMY and RELIGION in PAKISTAN

Fr Robert McCulloch will present "Bombs, Blasphemy and Religion in Pakistan" on Friday, 19th August at 7.00 pm in the Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street. This talk will be preceded by Holy Mass at 6.00 pm in the Chapel. Entry by donation and a plate of supper. Refreshments will follow the presentation. Enquiries to Carmel on 0401 175 045 or 5332 2103. All welcome.

FR. SHANE MACKINLAY'S SILVER JUBILEE

Fr. Shane Mackinlay will celebrate his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on 6th September this year. The Bungaree and Gordon parishes will celebrate this event with Fr. Shane at 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 11th September, at St. Michael's, Bungaree, followed by lunch in the Parish Centre; and at 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 18th September, at St. Brigid's Ballan. All welcome.

ENVELOPE

Would the person who recently used Env. No. 51 (blue) from the previous program please contact Jim on 5332 6611.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall. All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.