

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON

St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

The Gordon Parish is a supervised, community-led parish ~ Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Lin Bowers, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Aileen Toohey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Tim Delaney

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney Visiting Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409

✉ gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Maintenance: contact Parish Secretary ~ Safeguarding Officer: Lin Bowers

PARISH VISION: That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

Parish Schools	St. Brigid's Primary School St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll Principal: Mr Tim Delaney	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend

Thanks to all who give generously to each of these collections:

Loose	Presbytery:\$	Parish: \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2019/20:	
Year to Date:		\$7,606.00

Parish Update

We hope you are all keeping safe, well, warm and connected to our parish as we work our way through the Victorian Government's Stage 3 restrictions in regional Victoria. This means our churches are closed with no masses until further notice from the Victorian Government. There are exceptions for funerals and weddings. The Parish Leadership Team are still meeting via zoom every fortnight. We're not making any major decisions, just ensuring that the Parish is running smoothly, dealing with the Gordon Parish finances and addressing pastoral needs within our parish community. Hopefully we can gather together as one community soon.

Thank you

The Gordon Parish would like to thank Mick Winter for all his work as Chairperson for the Parish Pastoral Council. He dedicated many hours over a long period of time to this role. Thank you so much Mick.

New Parish Phone mobile phone number:

Please note the new mobile phone number for the Gordon Parish Secretary is 0492 903 409 The Gordon Parish landline number remains the same: 5368 9280. Thanks

All notices for weekly bulletin need to be submitted by 3.00pm Wednesday at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au THANKS

Church Cleaning

BALLAN	GORDON	SPRINGBANK

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH ~ BUNGAREE

St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree

Parish Administrator: Fr Sajan Mathew ~ ☎ 5334 0450 ~ C/- Post Office, Bungaree Vic 3352

✉ bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Parish Schools	St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$	Parish: \$
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Victorian Child Safe Standards

These new standards apply to all organisations that provide services for children. Our parish's Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct are available on the parish webpage of the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links.) Parish Safeguarding Officer: Leah Hanrahan.

Sacramental Program Up-Date

The Bungaree Sacramental Program was set to start in early June, however due to the restrictions during this COVID-19 time, in consultation with Fr Sajan, the following decisions have been made:

- The Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will be postponed till 2021. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be able to receive those sacraments then. Dates will be decided later in the year.

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will still go ahead this year, at this stage. Any children who have not received this Sacrament and are in Year 2 or above, are eligible for this program. The Parent Meeting is 13th October, 2020 and the Retreat Day & Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Tuesday 10th November 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct these to The Bungaree Parish Office via email:

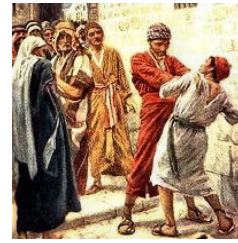
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or to Sue Prendergast: sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

All notices for the weekly bulletin need to be submitted by 3.00pm Wednesday at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au THANKS

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	COMMUNION MINISTER	Other
THERE WILL BE NO MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE				

LITURGIES

There will be no masses until further notice



	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Sat 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarke's Hill	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	(Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am)			

Recent Deaths

John William Mieklejohn

Anniversaries

Noel Kelly, Katherine Maher, Paul Mahar, George Richardson, Jeanette Pearse Danny Frawley, Michael Williams, John McCarthy, Wayne Torpy, Genoveffa Micallef, Carmen Gatt, Primo Giovanni Bettolatti, Eileen Davis, Hilda Joyce Blakemore, Gerard Williams, Steven Molloy, Phillip Camelleri, Josephine Catania and Muriel Snaith.

We offer our prayerful support for the sick

Anna Bartaska, Mitchell Prendergast, Michelle Hall, Mary Cassar, Moira Myers, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Alice Gardiner, Stan Mahar, Lore Winter, Jan Quinlan, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary, Anne Micallef and Clare Adriaans

Baptism Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Thomas Patrick Mahar (2017), Henry Arthur Montano (2018) and Jim Timothy Ryan (2018)
Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so they may walk in newness of life.

How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Emailed copies at Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Tubs outside churches.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stage 3 restrictions were re-introduced in regional Victoria effective from August 5, 2020. All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. It is different than we could have expected; the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is so important.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of September we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Prayerful & Eucharistic?** Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. You can read the discernment paper at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. We welcome any comments you have. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved

the date for this collection to **Sunday September 13th** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians, parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land. This year, we are facing great challenges due to COVID-19. You can donate by-

Placing your donation in the Holy Land Appeal envelopes that are in each of the tubs outside the churches and returning them to either the Bungaree Presbytery or Gordon Parish office (Tuesday or Wednesday's between (9.30am-2.00pm) or

Donating online- Bungaree: BSB 083 526

Account no 51565761895

Gordon: BSB 633 000

Account no 160275764

Please note: If paying into either account you must write 'Holy Land Appeal' as a reference. Thanks.

Social Justice Statement 2020-2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-2021, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Information: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

Child Protection Sunday – 13th September 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Season of Creation: September 1 – October 4, 2020

The fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* was the beginning of the Special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year (May 24, 2020 – May 24, 2021) with the hope that it be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth, for humanity and all God's creatures. The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is *Jubilee for the Earth* in which we are invited to consider the integral relationship between the rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. The need for a just and sustainable system revealed this year by the global COVID-19 pandemic, is a time to reflect and act on the urgency of the situation of our world today and for future generations. Liturgically, we celebrate remembering God's action in prayer. Resources from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/a-season-of-creation/> include a reflection from Bishop Paul, liturgical resources to guide reflections of the season and ecumenical resources.

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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FORGIVENESS BEYOND CALCULATION

In the parable of the Unforgiving Debtor that Jesus tells in response to Peter's question about forgiveness, the debt of 'ten thousand talents' is an utterly fantastic sum: in today's terms, 'billions of dollars'—something that the servant, despite his plea for time, could never hope to repay. He stands to lose absolutely everything—freedom, family, possessions—for his whole life long. The master's generosity in cancelling the debt in effect restores his life.

In comparison, the debt that the servant himself is owed by a fellow servant and which he is violently unwilling to remit, is paltry. The equivalent of a few hundred days' wages. Given time, it could easily be paid off. Hence the wickedness of the servant in not passing on to his fellow even a tiny portion of the immense generosity he had himself received.

The Lord would have Peter and all members of the community understand that they live as people who, through Christ's costly love, have received remission of a debt (the debt of sin) that they could never repay. How inappropriate then an unwillingness to forgive fellow members of the community the 'debts' set up by injury on a much smaller scale.

That said, we know that forgiveness is not something to speak of lightly. For people who have been deeply wronged finding the capacity to forgive may be the task of a lifetime. It cannot simply be willed—still less prescribed, urged or imposed by others who have not shared the loss. It is a grace, an entrance into the mystery of God's own generosity.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience

the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. R.

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. R.

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. R.

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. R.



SECOND READING

14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 3-4

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): ~12th & 13th
September 2020*



Family Prayer

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Lord Have Mercy
Christ Have Mercy
Lord Have mercy

Collect

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Readings

(Refer to front of the newsletter)

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Sirach, Sir 27: 30-28: 7

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans, Rom 14: 7-9

Gospel A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 18: 21-35

Silence

Homily

Today's text forms the conclusion to the fourth discourse in Matthew's gospel, Jesus' teaching on community. Peter's question about how often to forgive prompts Jesus to offer a brief reply and a lengthy parable. The parable actually sheds more light on what we pray in the Lord's Prayer – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" – than on the issue of how often we must forgive. The story, found in Matthew's gospel alone, may have originated elsewhere and been inserted here. Nonetheless Jesus' reply and the parable reinforce his teaching that those who wish to call themselves his disciples must engage in continual and unlimited forgiveness. This suggests that the need to forgive must have been a live issue in the community for whom Matthew is writing. The story is set in the fabulous world of an ancient oriental despot. The sums of money involved are extreme. Ten thousand talents would have been a vast fortune beyond imagining, while one hundred denarii represented a tiny fraction of this, about three months' wages for a labourer. The parable invites us to see that the forgiveness we are called to offer one another is on a minuscule scale compared

with the boundless mercy we have received from God. It's not the only story Jesus tells that has a disconcertingly harsh ending.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

READER: Jesus calls us to forgive as we ourselves are forgiven. In that spirit let us pray for a new world of mercy and compassion.

READER: We pray for an end to the hatreds feeding violence in our world, that the whole of humanity may know the peace of God's reign.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray for all institutions and agencies caring for children, that today's Child Protection Sunday will mark their full implementation of safeguarding measures.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray for Australia, that the coronavirus pandemic will strengthen our determination to overcome the inequality and disadvantage it has exposed.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray for our parish community, that we will grow strong in faith and gospel living in response to these challenging times.

Lord, hear us.

READER: God of all kindness, your Son taught us to forgive each other without limit, just as you forgive us. In your mercy help us to find inner peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in whom there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis; grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; watch over all medical people as they tend the sick and work for a cure; stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world.

Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us. (**Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane**)

**FROM POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
LAUDATO SI' 'CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME'**

A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

