

Feast of All Saints (Year A): ~ 31st October – 01 November 2020

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:		\$13,001.00

Parish Update

Indoor Religious Gatherings: are now allowed for up to 20 people, plus **one faith leader**. Strict requirements to be contained in a COVID Safe Plan (*please note this is slightly different from the last round of restrictions we operated under*) If you would like to be one of the 20 attendees this week, (Sunday, Nov 01 - Gordon 8.45am or Ballan 10.30am) you need to register your name with the parish secretary on 0492 903 409 to book your place. These are small steps as we progress

forward and hopefully if all goes well this will lead to larger groups into the future.

We trust and pray that you are keeping safe and well and staying connected to family members, friends and those you love.

The Transition Team continue to meet each fortnight via Zoom under the guidance and leadership of Fr Ed Moloney and will do so for the foreseeable future.

Regarding, DOBCEL, as reported last week, this is a new and exciting chapter in the life of Parishes and Parish Catholic schools and if you would like to know more you can visit their website on <https://ceob.edu.au>

Help please: St Brigid's School would like some shoe boxes for an art activity. Don't forget to take out the shoes though! If you can assist, please drop them into school.

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	Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 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

Dear Parishioners,
Due to the ongoing uncertainty and COVID restrictions, it has been decided by Fr Sajan and the Sacramental Team that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be postponed this year. Therefore, new dates for all Sacraments will be planned for similar times next year and all children eligible for the programs will be able to participate.
THE Bungaree Parish offers a Family Based Sacramental Program which is led by the Sacramental Team and

supported by the Parish schools, St Mary's Clarkes Hill and St Brendan's Dunnstown. The Sacraments and Eucharist are offered for Children in Year 3 and above. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered for children in Year 2 and above. Therefore, 2021 will look slightly different as there will be multiple age groups participating and we will make adjustments to the programs as necessary
If there is anyone in the Parish Community who would like to join the Sacramental Team or know more information, Please contact the Parish Office on 5334 0450 or email bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or to Sue Prendergast: sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Next week, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Sunday November 8, the cemetery mass won't take place at Pootilla, but mass will be held at the Bungaree Church at 8.45am. Mass. Gatherings of 20 will apply.

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	COMMUNION MINISTER	Other
As requested				

LITURGIES

As requested

	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)			



November 1st

Anniversaries

Leo Leonard, Eileen Ryan, Patrick Elliott, Alma Holloway, Allan Dixon, Noel Torpy, Ronnie Spratling, Mons Henry Nolan, Mary Donegan, Jack Molloy, John Jams Ronan, Bart Fuller, Paul Wheelahan, Joseph Toohey, Grace Bartaska.

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, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary and Anne Micalef.

Baptism Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptism: Patrick William Robinson (2016) Jack Sonny Steenhuis (2019)

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)

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has issued information regarding gatherings in places of worship now that restrictions have eased in regional Victoria. 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.

e-News

The Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The Diocesan e-News is published every two weeks and distributed via email. It is available to all members and those associated with the Diocese and to those with an interest in the life of the Diocese. We encourage you to subscribe to the e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese. To subscribe please go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au, click News & Events in the menu at the top, then e-News and register for the Diocesan e-News by the subscribe box.

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](#). The National Plenary Facilitation Team have released a resource to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers (attached). Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. **For the month of October we will look at HOW IS**

GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Humble, Healing and Merciful? Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Read the discernment paper:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-4.pdf>

Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/humble/>

Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus

Following the success of Michael McGirrs' *Trees in Solitude*, *Prayers and Images for Pentecost*, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael – *Trees Without Masks*. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

A New Audio Prayer Resource for Children and Families

A new audio resource called 'Time With Jesus' (TWJ) is a collection of short five minute meditations that take children (and adults) on an adventure through 13 popular New Testament bible stories to meet Jesus and speak with Him. For a free sample meditation, tips on how to use the TWJ resource in families and children's ministries and to make a purchase visit www.beheldmedia.com, www.parousiamedia.com. TWJ is available on CD or mp3 format and is a joint production of Beheld Media and Parousia.

Due to recent relaxation of restrictions, places of worship can open for the celebration of mass for up to 20 people in a single undivided space which will stand until further notice. Fr Sajan will be celebrating mass this coming Saturday (Oct 31) at Dunnstown at 6.30pm, Sunday, (Nov 01) at Gordon 8.45am and at Ballan 10.30am. We will be required to register to record details of all attendees at each mass, plus masks, signage, hygiene and safe cleaning practices as well. Please contact the parish secretary on 0492 903 409 to register. Thank you for your assistance.

Next week, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Sunday November 8, the cemetery mass won't take place at Pootilla, but mass will be held at the Bungaree Church at 8.45am. Mass gatherings of 20 will apply.

Could all items for the newsletter please be forwarded via email if possible to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, by 2pm. gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Thank you.

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, / and I will give you rest, says the Lord. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage;

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted;

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied;

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them;

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God;

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God;

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Reflections on the Gospel



ALL SAINTS DAY / A

01 NOVEMBER 2020

THE BEATITUDES

The gospel of the Beatitudes is often read at funerals and weddings. In its own way, it sounds comforting and indeed it is. However, it is also very challenging—which suggests that 'Blessed' is a better rendering of the opening word in each case than 'Happy'.

Jesus is instructing his disciples concerning the kind of people they must be, not just for themselves but for the benefit of the mass of afflicted people down below the mountain, who he has just healed.

To this end, the beatitudes describe ways of living that mean putting oneself in a vulnerable situation quite contrary to the values of the world. To be 'poor in spirit,' rather than proud and dominant; to feel compassion ('mourn') because other people suffer; to have a passionate commitment ('thirst') for justice; to exercise 'mercy' rather than taking advantage of those in an inferior position; to actively promote reconciliation (as 'peacemakers'); and so forth: all these things make one vulnerable here and now, entailing much loss.

But in light of the hope for the kingdom of God, whose values the Beatitudes enshrine, disciples who adopt this way of life are already 'blessed'. Their future happiness is in the hands of an ever-faithful God.

Moreover, living in this way means that they can be 'salt' and 'light' for the world, especially for the afflicted. It is those who are prepared to live in the vulnerable way commended by Jesus who make the world a hospitable home for all humanity. This is the legacy of the 'saints' who have gone before us.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-6. R. cf. v. 6

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **R.**



2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

Jn 3: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,

therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as

Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Feast of All Saints (Year A): ~ November 01, 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

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
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 the Apolcalypse Apoc 7:2-4, 9-14

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of 1st letter of John Jn 3:1-3

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Silence

Homily

Given the extreme familiarity of this text, it may surprise some to learn that Sunday Mass-goers hear the gospel of the beatitudes no more than once every three years, and that's early in Year A. They only hear it a second time in the cycle when the festival of All Saints falls on a Sunday. Of course a number of the congregation are likely to have heard it read or sung at other celebrations they have attended, especially funerals.

Presiders are sure to have read this passage out many times over. Their challenge is to proclaim it freshly, as if no-one had ever heard it before. A simple exercise may help. Checking out two or three other translations or looking up a new commentary could spark a new insight. This in turn might invigorate the presider's delivery of the text as well as inspire his homily.

There is no doubt about the importance of the passage as far as Matthew is concerned. It is the overture to the first of the five discourses that he gives to Jesus in memory of the five books of the Torah. The beatitudes are steeped in the tradition that Jesus absorbed from his family and townsfolk as he grew up. At the same time they open out on to a new future. Past wisdom and future promise combine in these paradoxical sayings whose meaning we can never exhaust. They carry an implicit warning: wrestling with them may leave us wounded like Jacob (Gen 32:22-32).

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

READER: To follow Jesus is to love with all our hearts. In union with His love let us pray for the whole human family

READER: For the Holy Catholic Church, for Francis our Pope, Bishop Paul, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, we pray to the Lord:

READER: For the leaders of the world, that they would promote justice, holiness, and life, and work together for the good of all persons, we pray to the Lord:

READER: For our church community, that we would model our lives after the holy men and women of God, becoming more like Christ in all ways, we pray to the Lord:

READER: In thanksgiving for the saints of God, and for the love and mercy they have shown to the world, we pray to the Lord:

READER: For those who are sick or suffering in any way, may they be comforted with the love of Christ, we pray to the Lord

**READER: God of all goodness your love has brought all things into being. Open our hearts to welcome your love and share it without reserve. 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.

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in whom there is Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. 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