

**1st Sunday of Advent (Year B): ~ 28/29 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	<a href="http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au">www.sballan.catholic.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au">www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au</a>
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**Collections last weekend**

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

<b>Loose</b>	Presbytery:\$227.50	Parish: \$696
<b>Planned Giving</b>	Envelopes 2019/20:	
<b>Year to Date:</b>		\$18,358

As you have seen, the Victorian Govt has announced new provisions for religious gatherings. Indoors are now capped at 150 with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sq metres. At this stage, there is no need to pre-register or book for each mass, but you will still be required to register on entering the Church. Masks are still required indoor but may be removed for

reading the Scriptures or receiving communion. Please refer to the attached notification from Bishop Paul Bird

**Cemetery Visits:**

Thank you to Fr Sajan for the visits to the Gordon and Ballan cemeteries over the past two Sundays. . It was a special time of remembrance for our loved ones and we appreciate you enabling us to participate.

**Parish End of Year Dinner – Gordon & Bungaree**

Once again, we are inviting you to gather as a combined community to celebrate the past year. Details are on the next page – it would be great if you are able to join us



**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	<a href="http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au">www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au">www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au</a>
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**Collections last weekend:**

<b>Presbytery:</b>	\$424	<b>Parish:</b>	\$390
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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](http://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](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or to Sue Prendergast: [sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

	<b>READER/INTERCESSIONS</b>	<b>PRESENTATION OF GIFTS</b>	<b>COMMUNION MINISTER</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>As requested</b>				

**WELCOME BACK - IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!!!**

## LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) in Bungaree at 9.30am – all welcome!

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> 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)			

### Anniversaries

Kevin Glenane, Peter McDermott, Troy Toohey, Winnie Leonard, Bob Frawley, Michael Frawley, Maurice Kelly, Bishop James O'Collins, James Conlan, George Smith, Doreen Conroy

### 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 Micallef.

### How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Emailed copies at [Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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 November 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](mailto: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/>



### Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year. To donate go to [https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?\\_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687)

### Catholic Care Victoria

Victoria's bishops have announced the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity, CatholicCare Victoria from January 1, 2021. Statements and further information is available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria/>

### Parish End of Year Dinner –

#### Gordon & Bungaree

Keep this date – Tues Dec 8 – we will gather at Donegan's Farm, Gordon from 6pm. Cost is \$30 per head and bookings essential via the parish office 0492 903 409

### Christmas Mass Times:

Dec 24 – Clarkes Hill – 6pm  
(Christmas Eve) Gordon – 6pm  
Springbank – 8pm  
Bungaree – 8pm  
Dec 25 - Ballan – 9am  
(Christmas Day) Dunnstown – 9.30am



### Prayer for Advent:

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts!  
Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are  
where our hope comes from.  
Help us to shake off the anxiety,  
discouragements, and distractions  
that have filled this year.  
May we pause to remember  
that we have hope in you.

Due to recent relaxation of restrictions, places of worship can open for the celebration of mass for up to 150 people Please refer to the attached notification from Bishop Paul

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](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
[Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Thank you.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

## WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Chris Monaghan CP as our reflection writer. Fr Chris is President of Yarra Theological Union, University of Divinity, where he teaches both Old and New Testament. In his reflection, he will consider briefly each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, of the Jesuit College of Spirituality, University of Divinity, for his insightful reflections on the Gospels over the past three years.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

29 NOVEMBER 2020

## THE CALL TO CONVERSION

As Advent begins, we set out once again to prepare our hearts for the great feast of God's humble presence among us. Expectation and complacency, longing and listlessness, can all be found in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas. Today's readings speak of our need for God's presence and our thankful response of faithfulness.

The reading from Isaiah is a passionate plea for renewal and change. The people have been left to their own devices for too long. If God would only tear open the heavens and come down, the mountains would melt before God's presence. Isaiah hopes that the hearts of the people of Israel should also melt so that God the great potter, could once more mould, shape, and breathe life into their hearts.

Paul's perspective is one of thanksgiving for the gifts that have already been given as the community waits for the Lord's return. Such gifts are given to sustain us as we wait for the moment when Jesus will finally be revealed in glory.

It is one thing to be grateful for blessings and gifts received but the Gospel calls us to take the next step of using these gifts faithfully. The parable of the master who leaves his servants in charge during his absence is as relevant today as in the days of Mark. It is important to note that each of the servants is entrusted with a task to be faithfully completed. As Advent begins each one of us is given the task of preparing our hearts and lives to welcome the Lord.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and  
come down — at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but  
you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

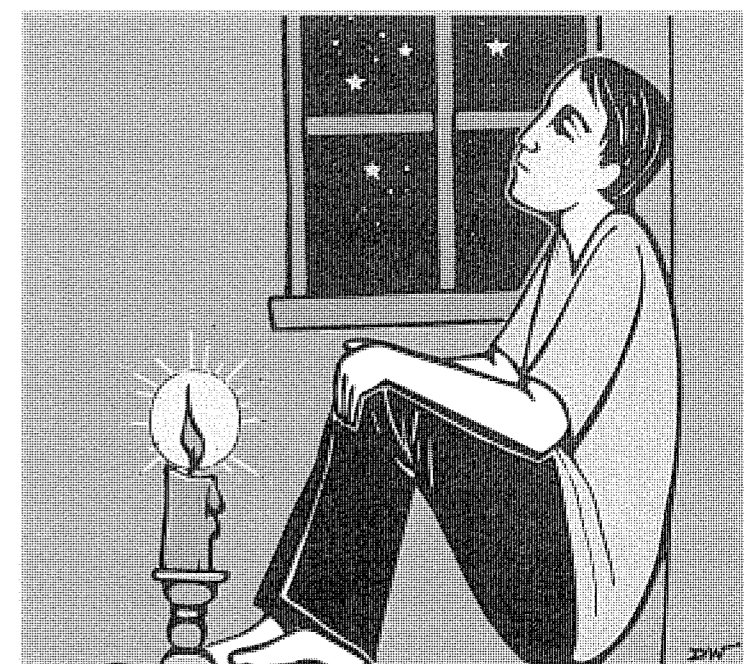
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, / the man you have given your strength. / And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



### **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**

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.  
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 prophet Isaiah ISA 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

**Second Reading:** A reading from the letter of 1st letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
1 Cor 1:3-9

**Gospel:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mk 13: 33-37

**Silence**

### **Homily**

All three synoptic gospels include an account of Jesus speaking in Jerusalem about the end times before he enters upon the passion that leads to his death. The language of Jesus' discourse is full of foreboding: he warns of upheavals in heaven and on earth, of destruction and desolation, persecution and betrayal. All of these are features of the apocalyptic literature that seems to have been common enough in Jesus' day. Now it is all but impossible for us to disentangle where he (or the evangelist) is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem, about a final cosmic conflict, or about the coming of the Son of Man.

Three times we are warned to "stay awake!". It's the same admonition that Jesus repeats to Peter, James and John in the garden of Gethsemane, when he is facing his own "end time". His whole mission and his very life are under threat and he has to summon every ounce of energy to go on. Jesus wants us to be under no illusions as to what is at stake when the cost of discipleship confronts us. We need to be alert and ready to choose life.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**FR SAJAN:** Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

**READER:** We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Paul, clergy and all Church and world leaders: that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to help us to get ready during this Advent for Jesus to come to us. Lord, hear us.

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**READER:** We pray for people in our world who are alone or suffering in any way especially during this Advent season that they may feel the love and care of others and know that they are deeply loved by God. Lord, hear us.

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**READER:** We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that together we can grow in love as we get ready this Advent for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Lord, hear us.

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**READER:** We pray for our families and friends: that we may always keep our eyes open to the world around us and reach out to all those who need our help. Lord, hear us

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**READER:** We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time Lord, hear us

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**READER:** We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love - Kevin Glenane, Peter McDermott, Troy Toohey, Winnie Leonard, Bob Frawley, Michael Frawley, Maurice Kelly, Bishop James O'Collins, James Conlan, George Smith, Doreen Conroy- that they will now be united in God's kingdom of love and mercy with Christ to live forever. Let us Lord, hear us

**FR SAJAN:** God who calls us to be close, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. You sent Jesus to show us how to live a life of faith. We believe in your love because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. 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.



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November 23, 2020

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian government has announced new provisions for religious gatherings, to take effect from tomorrow (November 23). This will make it much easier for us to gather for Mass and other celebrations. However, we should note that, while the number of people who can gather is much greater, COVIDSafe practices, including wearing masks, record keeping and cleaning, are still in place. The following is a summary of the new provisions.

### **Numbers permitted for religious gatherings and ceremonies**

#### **New limits from Monday, November 23**

**Indoor** religious gatherings and ceremonies: Cap of **150** people with a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres.

**Outdoor** religious gatherings and ceremonies: Cap of **300** people with a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres.

At any one time, a venue can have either an indoor or outdoor ceremony, not both at the same time.

**Weddings:** Cap of **150** people with a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres indoors or outdoors. Persons necessary to conduct the wedding (such as celebrant and servers) are not counted in this limit.

**Funerals, including wakes:** Cap of **150** mourners with a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres indoors or outdoors. Persons necessary to conduct the funeral (such as a faith leader) are not counted in this limit.

**To calculate the number of people** who can gather in a particular area, you will need to measure the floor space and divide by 4. For example, if a church is 30 metres long x 10 metres wide, the area is 300 square metres. So you could have 75 people gather in that church for Mass.

**Note:** Cleaning, signage, record keeping, and other COVIDSafe requirements continue to apply. In general, those attending must wear masks. Masks may be removed when necessary, for example, while leading prayers or reading the Scriptures or receiving Communion.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird