

# The Baptism of the Lord (Year B): ~ 09 / 10 January 2021

## 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 ☎ 5368 1015

[www.sballan.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr Tim Delaney ☎ 5368 9495

[www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au)

### Collections last weekend

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

Loose	Presbytery: \$283	Parish: \$136
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$23,708 to date
Christmas Dues	\$270	

We are now all aware of the current restrictions in place for religious gatherings. Attendees will still be required **to register on entering the Church.**

Please note also that there are QR Codes in our three churches to enable you to scan your mobile phone to register.

### Counters Needed:

If you are able to assist with counting the Sunday takings, could you please contact the Parish Office for more details - 0492 903 409. Thank you



## 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 Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280

[www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au)

St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604

[www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

### Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$305	Parish: \$590.00
	Christmas Dues \$50

### 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 in 2020. Therefore, new dates for all Sacraments will be planned for similar times in 2021 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)

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	Please Note
09 / 10 January	The Baptism of the Lord (Year B) Isa 55: 1-11 1 Jn 5: 1-9 Mk 1:7-11	
Springbank - 6.30pm	As requested	Until we can resume our normal weekend Mass
Bungaree - 8.45am	As requested	Timetable, we will call upon volunteers to assist
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	with reading the Scriptures and Prayers
16 / 17 January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B) 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20 Jn 1: 35-42	
Dunnstown - 6.30pm	As requested	of Intercession.
Gordon - 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	
23 / 24 January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B) Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 1 Cor 7: 29-31 Mk 1: 14-20	
Clarkes Hill - 6.30pm	As requested	
Gordon - 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	

## 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**

Joseph Maher, Tess Dridan, Stephen Haintz, Susan McDermott, Maurine Kiely, Henry Spratling, Patrick Moran, Joseph Palfi, Katalin & George Dusor, Brian O'Neil, Gwen Shanahan, Maisie Carey, Jack Shanahan, Patricia Coulson, Patrick Moran, Joey Teuma.

### **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.

### **Baptisms:**

Congratulations to Maya Carmen Newman (daughter of Vincent & Catherine) and to Harriet Eily Maher (daughter of Daniel & Laura) who are being baptised this weekend at St Michaels and St Peters respectively this weekend. We welcome both Maya and Harriet into our faith community and assure them and their families of our prayers and support.

### **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.
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### **New Diocesan Website**

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

### **Christmas Offerings**

Along with Easter Offerings (and donations at the time of baptisms, weddings and funerals), Christmas Offerings make an important contribution to the funds from which clergy salary and living expenses are paid. Additional envelopes are available at Church door. Thank you to generous offerings so far received from both parishes.

### **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)

### **Plenary Council Update**

In light of the ongoing uncertainty around future COVID-19 restrictions regarding travel and public gatherings, especially social distancing, a decision has been taken for the first Plenary Council assembly to take place using a combination of online and in-person delivery. Read more at the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/first-plenary-council-assembly-mixes-in-person-online-format/>

**2021 Columban Calendars** are now on sale at each Church centre for \$7.

**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/read>

### **Year of St Joseph:**

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

**"Remember O Most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you.**

**Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them, Amen"**

### **Advance Notice – dates for 2021:**

Rite of Election: Saturday, February 20, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 12.30pm. Mass of the Oils: Monday, March 29 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm.

**Ministry & Cleaning Rosters** for 2021 are currently being updated. If you wish to be added or taken off the roster, could you please inform the parish member concerned.

### **BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAINS - DUNNSTOWN HISTORY BOOK**

Official book launch to be held 2pm at the Dunnstown Recreation Reserve on Sunday 17th January. Sausage sizzle & refreshments available from 12.30pm. Books available for purchase & collection of pre-paid books.

**\*\*Please note the Pastoral Ministry Office is closed until January 18, 2021 for annual holidays\*\***

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) or [Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) Thank you.

Only the man who believes  
that Jesus is the Son of God:  
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,  
not with water only,  
but with water and blood;  
with the Spirit as another witness –  
since the Spirit is the truth –  
so that there are three witnesses,  
the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.  
We accept the testimony of human witnesses,  
but God's testimony is much greater,  
and this is God's testimony,  
given as evidence for his Son.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Jn 1:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:  
This is the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of the world. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mk 1:7-11

**A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Mark.**

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*  
In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / B

10 JANUARY 2021

## SHARING GOD'S GIFT

One of the great recurring themes of the scriptures is that of God's irrepressible and untiring desire to bring us into the fullness of life. The reading from Isaiah is filled with images of the life God wants to share with us: water, grain, wine and milk without cost, a life-giving and nourishing word that never returns without achieving its purpose. This life is offered freely – all we need do is seek the Lord to share in this banquet.

For Christians, baptism is a sign of the new life that we have been graciously given through the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the problems facing John's community was that of how to deal with false teachings which were dividing and weakening the community and the baptismal promises they had made. John seeks to remind them of the life they share through their baptism and the call to bear witness to it by their love for God and for their sisters and brothers.

In the birth of Jesus God's life-giving and nourishing word becomes one with us. His baptism marks a moment of grace for him and us. The heavens are opened and God's empowering Spirit comes upon him as he begins his ministry. God bears testimony to the life that he is pleased to offer us in the Beloved Son. At Jesus' baptism the voice from heaven proclaims how a time of new life and growth is beginning. For those with eyes to see the rich harvest is already beginning, and the banquet prepared.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*Come to the waters; listen to my words and you shall have life.*

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good  
things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;  
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,  
those unknown will come hurrying to you,  
for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.

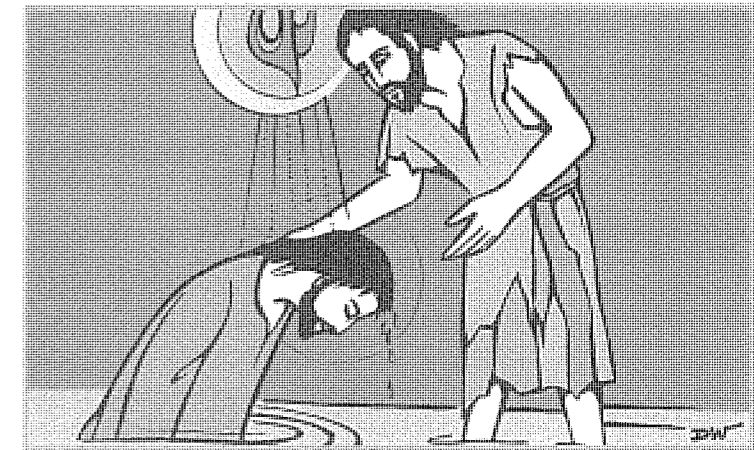
Let him turn back to the Lord who will  
take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who  
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from  
the heavens and do not return without watering  
the earth, making it yield and giving growth to  
provide seed for the sower and bread for the  
eating, so the word that goes from my mouth  
does not return to me empty, without carrying  
out my will and succeeding in what it was sent  
to do.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the  
springs of salvation.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall  
not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, /  
he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw  
water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his  
name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the  
peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done  
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the  
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for  
joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Jn 5:1-9

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ  
has been begotten by God;  
and whoever loves the Father that begot him  
loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children  
if we love God himself and do

what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?