

5th Sunday of Lent (Year B): ~ 20/ 21 March 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, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Paul McDowell

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney 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 Paul McDowell	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
----------------	---	---	----------------------------	--

Collections last weekend

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

Loose	Presbytery: \$566.75	Parish: \$132
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$27,969 (updated)

We welcome the children who are at Mass this weekend as part of their preparation for Reconciliation. We assure them

of our prayers and support on their journey as they prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation this coming week.

Gordon Sacramental Program 2021

Thursday, March 25 – Reconciliation Ceremony – 4pm - St Patrick's Church, Gordon



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 Principal: Inez French	☎ 5334 5280 ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
----------------	--	--	----------------------------	--

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$300.00	Parish: \$390.00
--------------------	----------	-------------------------

Victorian Child Safe Standards

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.

Bungaree Sacramental Program 2021 (Year 2 and above)

Tuesday, April 27 – Parent Information Night – 7.30pm
Bungaree Parish Centre - Reconciliation

Enrolment Masses – Parish Masses (TBC) - May 1st 2nd

Tuesday, June 8 – Reconciliation Ceremony – 5.30 – 7pm
St Michaels Church, Bungaree

Parish Leadership Team:

There are currently two vacant positions each from Dunnstown and Bungaree on the Parish Leadership Team. If you would be interested in filling any of these roles or would like some more information, please contact Damian Ryan - ryandjr@bigpond.com

Working With Children Check: Is your WWC check up to date? Currently, we are reviewing our data base, so it is important that all parishioners who assist with parish ministries hold valid and current WWC cards. Please contact Leah Hanrahan for more details if you are unsure of your status. (lg3@optusnet.com.au or 0411 859 544)

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
20 / 21 March	5th Sunday of Lent – Jer 31: 31-34 Heb 5: 7-9 Jn 12: 20-30		
Dunnstown – 6.30pm	Peter Britt	Britt Family	Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45am	Therese Winter / Debbie Goldie	Margaret Smith / Georgina Wright	Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30am	Marie Shanahan / Julie Dargan	Bridget Sims Family	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
27 / 28 March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Isa 50: 4-7 Phil 2: 6-11 Mk 15: 1-39		
Clarkes Hill – 6.30pm	Margie Moran	Marty Forbes	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45am	Beth Calleja / Mick Winter	Maria & Bernadette Donegan	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30am	Margaret Green / Mark Conlan	Lorraine DeSpirt / Vicki Boka	Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of each Month
03/04 April	Easter Night Rom 6:3-11, Mk 16: 1-7 Sunday Acts 10:34, 37-43, Col 3: 1-4, Jn 20: 1-9		
Gordon - 7 pm	Joan Bourke	Gary and Margaret McTigue	Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Bungaree- 8.45 am	As Requested	As Requested	Saturday - Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Clarkes Hill- 10.30 am	As Requested	As Requested	
Ballan -10.30 am	Winnie Zammit and Lloyd Lamb	Cairan and Janine Donohoe Family	

HOLY WEEK			
29 March- 1 April			
Ballan	30 March, 7 pm	Mass	Fr Ed Moloney
Dunnstown	31 March, 7pm	Mass	Fr Sajan Mathew
Ballan	1 April, 7.30 pm	Holy Thursday	Fr Ed Moloney
Dunnstown	1 April, 7.30 pm		Fr Sajan Mathew
Ballan	2 April, 10 am	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross	Lay Lead
Springbank	2 April, 3 pm	Good Friday - Commemoration of the Cross	Fr Sajan Mathew

Anniversaries: Peter Torpy, Maurice Frawley, Peter de Spirt, Harry Wise, Joseph Micallef, Mary Winter, Joseph and Antonia Spiteri, Renee Barbara, Helen Kuczynski, Brian D'Arcy, Joseph Cini, Doreen Torpy, Mona Nihill, Margaret O'Regan, Des Frichot, Joan Shanahan

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.

Mass of the Oils: Monday March 29, 2021

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, March 29. COVID-19 restrictions allow a maximum of 300 people in the Cathedral. To assist the diocese in observing this limit, parishes are asked to nominate up to 10 representatives to attend from each parish. **If you would like to attend please register with our parish secretary 0492 903 409 before Monday 22 March or sign the registration form (next to the sign-in COVID register) after mass today.**

Holy Land Collection to be held on Good Friday April, 2021

The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the Christian people of the Holy Land and provides for the upkeep of the sacred places as well as a range of projects and programs including Social and Charitable Activities, Educational and Scientific Activities, Pastoral Activities and Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs. This year's collection is particularly vital as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a severe loss of income. In his letter to the People of Church in Australia, Fr Mario Debattista OFM, Commissary of the Holy Land – Australia, said: 'I assure you, every bit helps in these challenging times for the people and Church of the Holy Land'. Copies of his letter are available for interested parishioners.

A week of prayer with St Joseph

The Sisters of St Joseph invite all to participate in a week of prayer with St Joseph, beginning on **March 19**. St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founders of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, chose St Joseph to be patron of the Congregation. During this year, the Congregation will mark each of its primary feasts with special prayers and celebrations. The first of these will be a week of prayer in preparation for the feast of St Joseph. Go to: www.sosj.org.au/yearofstjoseph

Project Compassion Virtual Immersions – Week 5

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. **Week 5: Halima's Story (Indonesia)** on Tuesday, March 23 at 7.30pm (VIC). You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>.

Year of the Family

Pope Francis launched the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year" on March 19, the 5th anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, a document on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. The launch was a virtual event entitled, "Our Daily Love", organised by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the Diocese of Rome and the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, all based in Rome. View online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckI4OUXU7_LBguDrPZQKsng

Catholic women invited to National Consultation 2021

Catholic women are being invited to participate in a national consultation on March 27, 2pm-4pm via Zoom with the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. Archbishop Christopher Prowse (BCELM Chairperson) and Bishop Michael Morrissey (Bishops Delegate for Women) will be present for the meeting. The March consultation will inform the development and agenda of a National Catholic Women's Gathering to be held on 11 September 2021. More information available from the diocesan website or <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/catholic-women-invited-to-national-consultation/> Participants must register to attend. Please register by **4pm, Friday 26 March**.

Celebration of Holy Week 2021

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Bishops Commission for Liturgy webpage has information from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on the celebration of Holy Week 2021, the decree in Time of COVID-19 2020 and Votive Mass Texts and Good Friday Solemn Intercession in Time of Pandemic (2020). Go to: <https://www.catholic.org.au/commissions/bishops-commission-for-liturgy>

Parish Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Aileen Toohey will be our new Parish Secretary for the Parish of Gordon and the Parish of Bungaree. The Parish Secretary is always available by phone (5368 9280 or 0492 903 409). The Gordon Parish office (the former Parish Convent) is open Tuesday, 9.30am - 2pm; Bungaree Parish Office (Bungaree Presbytery) is open Thursday, 9.30 – 2.30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2021. No 1870. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

21 MARCH 2021

DYING IN ORDER TO LIVE

As Holy Week approaches, we are invited to enter more deeply into our own hearts and to accompany Jesus as he searches his heart in preparing to undergo his passion. The readings focus not only on the new life that we are offered, but also on the decisions that must be made to die to what is false within us so that God's new life may grow and flourish within us.

Jeremiah spoke to his contemporaries about the new covenant that God wanted to plant in their hearts. He powerfully calls for a decision to renewal. Would they give God the space in which to plant a seed? Did they have the courage to leave their past behind and journey towards a new future?

In the second reading and the Gospel we see how Jesus also shared in our struggle to choose the life that comes from dying to self. In the letter to the Hebrews, we are presented with the image of Jesus as God's Son who, like us, must search, struggle and pray so that the seed might grow and flourish. Some people may be disquieted by the image of Jesus having to come to perfection through struggle. It is a most precious gift – this is how seriously God takes it when God becomes one like us and shares in our humanity. In the gospel we see Jesus wrestling with this moment which is paradoxically the moment when he is already glorified. It is the moment of decision, when he must choose to become the living example of the seed that dies in order to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

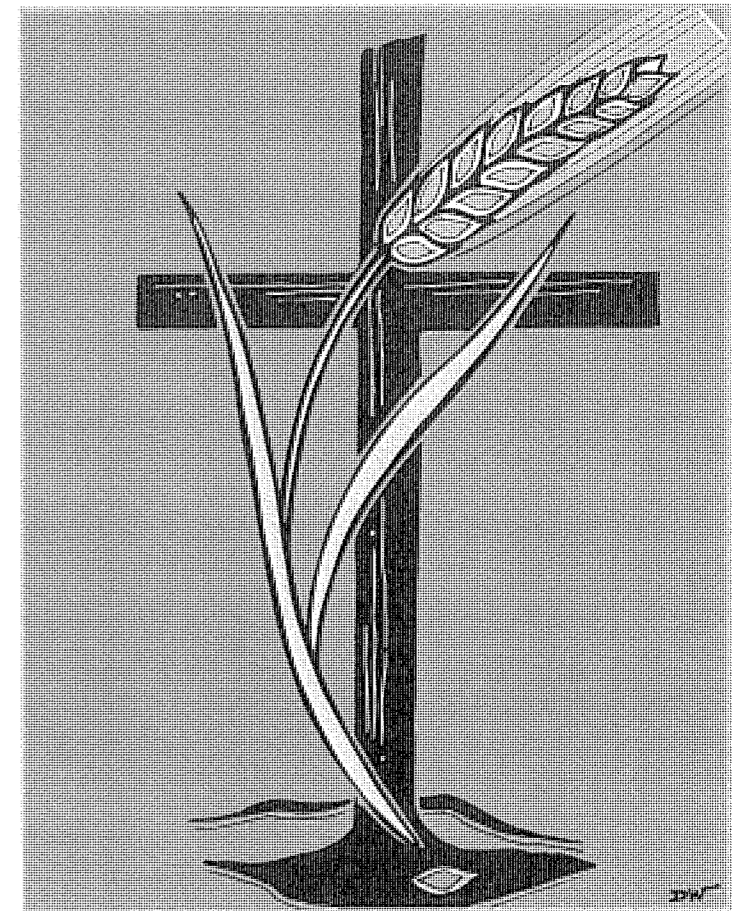
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. R.
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. R.



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

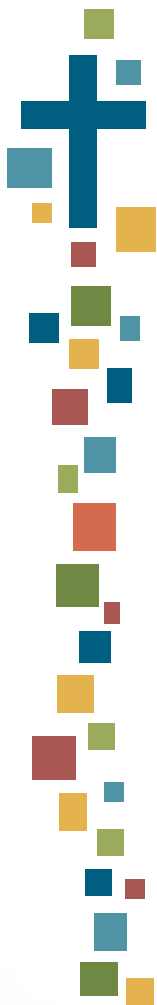
Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Journey towards the Plenary Council
Reflecting on a Theme for Discernment

Fifth Sunday of Lent 2021

HOW DO WE DISCERN
WHAT GOD IS ASKING?



FROM THE READINGS

This is the covenant that I will make ... It is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it in their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard.

Hebrews 5:7

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest ... If a person serves me, they must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

John 12:24-26

FROM POPE FRANCIS - LET US DREAM

What words or phrases stand out for you?

The discernment step allows us to ask: what is the Spirit telling us?

What is the grace on offer here, if we can only embrace it; and what are the obstacles and temptations? What humanises, what dehumanises? Where is the good news hidden within the sombre news, and where is the bad spirit dressed as an angel of light? These are questions for those who humbly search and listen, who are willing not just to grasp at answers but to reflect and pray ...

Discerning what is and what is not of God, we begin to see where and how to act. When we find where God's mercy is waiting to overflow, we can open the gates, and work with all people of goodwill to bring about the necessary changes.

How do we distinguish the spirits? They speak different languages; they use different ways to reach our hearts. The voice of God never imposes but proposes, whereas the enemy is strident, insistent, and even monotonous. The voice of God might correct us, but gently, always encouraging, consoling, giving us hope. The bad spirit on the other hand, offers us dazzling illusions and tempting sensations, but they are fleeting. It exploits our fears and suspicions, and seduces us with wealth and prestige. If we ignore it, it responds with contempt and accusation, telling us: You're worthless.

The voice of the enemy distracts us from the present by getting us to focus on fears of the future, or the sadness of the past. The voice of God, on the other hand, speaks to the present, helping us to move ahead in the here and now. What comes from God asks: “What is good for me, what is good for us?”...

Where the good spirit gives you hope, the bad spirit sows suspicion, anxiety, and finger-pointing. The good spirit appeals to my desire to do good, to help and serve, and gives me strength to go forward on the right path. The bad spirit, conversely, closes me in on myself and makes me rigid and intolerant.

Pope Francis, *Let us Dream*, 60-61 62

FROM A PLENARY COUNCIL THEME

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Humble, Healing and Merciful?

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/]

Take a few moments for stillness and prayer to respond to two of the challenges suggested in this theme paper, for your parish, community, a group, or for you personally:

How do we ...?

- encourage a culture of corporate discernment, using the Cardijn Principles of ‘See, Judge, Act’, ensuring collegiality, co-responsibility, examination of conscience, constant review and transparent accountability in all we do? Teach and embed such a process into daily practice and decision making, so that it becomes habitual and ‘normal’?
- establish a Parish Pastoral Council, Leadership Team or equivalent that is inclusive, reflective of the local demographics and truly consultative and ready to respond to needs?
- develop a robust framework of pastoral care that is relevant to people’s needs and attentive to their human flourishing?
- become a humble, more accessible Church, including the ever-developing digital world context, developing an online apostolate, using online means to help maintain spiritual closeness with God’s people?
- recognise the baptismal dignity and common priesthood of all the faithful lived in harmony with the ministerial priesthood, nurturing healthy relationships between laity and clergy?

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You call us to listen and to discern, to deliberate, to judge and to act.
For the times we have failed to put into action our knowledge of the good;
for the times we have not listened;
for the time we have not searched for the truth you want us to hear;
for the times we have not discerned your will;
for the times we have not acted with compassion and courage, we pray:
Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Adapted from 'Examination of Conscience: Theological and Moral Virtues' in Robert Morneau, *Reconciliation*, 94-95



Prepared for Lent Year B 2021 by: Adult Faith Education Sandhurst,
PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552. Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Acknowledgements: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? Continuing the Journey of Discernment towards the Plenary Council, Sydney: Plenary Council, 2020 (Discernment Paper) www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au: Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future – Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh*, London / NY: Simon & Schuster, 2020. Robert Morneau, *Reconciliation*, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2007. 'See, Judge, Act. A reflection/action process for decision making' Catholic Archdiocese of Perth Justice Ecology and Development Office, 2014: <http://jedo.perthcatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/20140415-Relection-Action-See-Judge-Act-booklet.pdf>*



HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

Franciscan Provincial Office
47 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024, Australia
Tel (02) 9369 9300 Fax (02) 9369 9322
Email: admin@franciscans.org.au
Web: www.holylandfranciscansaustralia.org

To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2021

For 800 years, Franciscan friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the often conflict torn countries of the Middle East, the most recent example being the civil war in Syria which began in 2011 and still remains unresolved. But as well as Syria, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land includes Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars offer pastoral care in parishes, provide vital educational and charitable works, and in addition, maintain the constant upkeep of the Holy Places of Christianity.

But 2020 has proved to be a year like no other. As in so many parts of the world, the COVID-19 Pandemic has created enormous challenges for the people of the Holy Land particularly in terms of health and a catastrophic loss of income due to travel restrictions preventing pilgrims, and the closure of all shrines. Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are a vital resource. The offerings that Pilgrims leave allow the Franciscan Friars and local Church to carry out their mission: from the care of the Holy Places that give work to the local community, to the running of several parishes, schools and the many social works that care for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and more.

Brothers and sisters, as the Holy Land Collection Statement of Income for 2020 shows, the disruption caused by the pandemic led to a collection last year of only one-third of a normal year in Australia. This loss has been repeated around the world, often much worse, and as things appear, it will again be the case in many countries in 2021. All this makes this year's Good Friday Collection extremely important. The hope is that as our life in Australia returns more to normal and our churches are open, Australian Catholics will be able to be as generous as they have been in past years. Please remember brothers and sisters that the Collection is a vital contribution and act of solidarity that the whole Church can make to support, through the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, the Christian peoples of the Holy Land. These Christians trace their faith right back to Pentecost (Acts 2:10), and they still walk in the footsteps of Jesus, often in a seemingly endless Way of the Cross.

The solidarity that we Australian Catholics can make is not only with the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, but also with the Latin Diocese of Jerusalem and with the six ancient Oriental Communities in the Middle East. Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, writes: "I am glad to transmit to all who work for the success of the Good Friday Collection, the deepest gratitude of the Holy Father together with my own gratitude and that of the Congregation for Oriental Churches."

Our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops have always been most generous to the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus often in the face of great odds, made all the more difficult now due to the terrible pandemic afflicting our world. On their behalf, may I humbly thank you all wholeheartedly.

Mario Debattista ofm

Friar Mario Debattista ofm
Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)
www.holylandfranciscansaustralia.org

