

6th Sunday of Easter (Year B): ~ 8/9 May 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.spvgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$360.85	Parish: \$87.00 \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$30,667 (updated)

National Count of Attendance at Mass - Gordon

Counting of church attendance will be conducted every week during May. A designated counting sheet has been placed in each of the Gordon, Ballan and Springbank churches to facilitate the count directly after Mass. Please nominate counter/s before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information and ensuring that the form is completed correctly. The three forms should be returned to the Parish Secretary for forwarding on to the Diocese Office

St. Patrick's School, Gordon

St. Patrick's School, Gordon welcomes all enquiries and enrolments for 2022. For further information or to organise a school tour, please contact the Principal, Mr Paul McDowell on 5368 9495; principal@spvgordon.catholic.edu.au

St. Brigid's School 2022 PREP Enrolments

Enrolments open Tuesday, April 20, 2021. School tours/ Information sessions will be held on Mon 10 May & Wed 19 May. For information and registration go to: www.sballan.catholic.edu.au/school-tours

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 0430 ~ C/- Post Office, Bungaree Vic 3352

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

✉ 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: \$314.00	Parish: \$390.00
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Parishioners of Bungaree donations included **Easter Dues** \$30.00. Thanks to all parishioners who so generously gave to each of these collections:

COVID Registration Form - Bungaree

To assist parishioners in registering their attendance, we ask for a volunteer attending Mass on the day to facilitate the sign-in procedure before the commencement of Mass. After completion, the registration forms will be held by the Parish Office

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

National Count of Attendance at Mass- Bungaree

Counting of church attendance will be conducted every week during May. A designated counting sheet has been placed in each of the Bungaree, Dunnstown and Clarke's Hill churches to facilitate the count directly after Mass. Please nominate counter/s before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information and ensuring that the form is completed correctly. The three forms should be returned to the Parish Secretary for forwarding on to the Diocese Office

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
8/9 May	6th Sunday of Easter Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4 7-10		
Springbank-6.30 pm	Louise Haintz	Greg McAloon	Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree-8.45 am	N Jeffrey	S Steenhuis	Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Margaret Green & Mark Conlan	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
15/16 May	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11, Eph 1: 17-23		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Fran Peterkin	Fran Peterkin	Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Kerryn Taylor	Mark & Narelle Conroy	Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	WinnieZammit & Lloyd Lamb	Binks Family	Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of each Month
22/23 May	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2: 1-11 Gal: 5: 16-25		
Clarke's Hill-6.30 pm	Julie Moran	Julie Moran	Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Gordon-8.45 am	Maria Donegan & Shane Carey	Margaret Smith & Georgina Wright	Saturday - Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30 am	Bert Jarvis & Lin Bowers	Bridget Sims Family	

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) at Bungaree at 9.30am
All Welcome!

	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	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan
Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am					

Anniversaries: Helen Ronan, Eddie Clark, Monica Kelly, Carole Steenhuis, Joan Blood, Jack McGuigan, Carmel McAloon & Arthur Gore

We offer our prayerful support for the sick Anna Bartaska, Mitchell Prendergast, Lyla Geary Michelle Hall, Mary Cassar, Moira Myers, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating Stan Mahar, Lore Winter, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Alice Gardiner, Eileen Haintz & Alfred Calleja.

Baptisms: We welcome Nolan Carey, Matilda Cain and Patrick Powell who will be baptised this weekend at St. Patrick's Church, Gordon, into our faith community. We also celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Ruby Miles, Genevieve Prendergast, Meredith Bodnar, Jude Joyce, Violet Toohey, Fergus Toohey, Lola Suckling and Ruby Plover. Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 16-23, 2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 16 – 23, 2021 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The 2021 resources have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. Resources are available from <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/2021-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

National Count of Attendance at Mass & Sunday Assemblies in the Parishes of Gordon and Bungaree

The parishioners of Bungaree and Gordon have been asked to participate in the national count during the month of May. The national count is conducted in the same year of the Australian Census so that the information collected can be most effectively used. The count is conducted over the **first four consecutive Sundays (& Saturday evenings) in May**. Counting over four Sundays ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked. This year, parishes will also be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of those who attend Mass and Sunday assemblies.

Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. FAQ information sheet from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has been placed in all churches in the Parish of Bungaree and Gordon. Also available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video, published to Facebook and YouTube, includes a personal message from the Pope as he asks us to pray for each monthly intention. You can find it at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for May:

May universal intention for evangelisation – The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 2, 2021

Planning for the second issue of Our Diocesan Community (ODC) 2021 is underway and we invite your contributions. We will continue the 2021 themes of *Plenary Council / Year of St Joseph / Year of the Family*. We are hoping to gather stories and experiences in the Catholic community – schools, parishes and agencies from all around the diocese. We also invite you to share significant events that may have taken place over the last few months in your parish, school community and agency. We hope to have this issue of "Our Diocesan Community" delivered in the week beginning July 12 so the latest date for submissions to this issue is Friday, May 28, 2021. Articles should be approximately 250 words maximum in length and accompanied by photos where possible. Photos should be sent as separate JPEG files (not inserted into a Word document). Material can be sent to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au. A reminder that when sending in photos, permission should be sought from those in the pictures. From time-to-time, these photos will also be used in other diocesan publications. Jane & Julie for the ODC Editorial Committee

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

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.



Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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LOVING ONE ANOTHER AS JESUS LOVED

We can only start to imagine the surprise and unsettling effect on Peter when Cornelius, a Roman centurion, prostrated himself before him. Cornelius was a representative of a hated and oppressive foreign government and here he publicly humiliates himself in front of a Galilean fisherman! Peter's own response is as generous and spontaneous as that of Cornelius: 'God has no favourites!' In saying this the barrier separating Jews and Gentiles is in the process of being shattered. When the gift of the Spirit is poured out so obviously on this Gentile household Peter can no longer see any reason to maintain long-held prejudices and instructs his companions to baptise them.

Breaking down barriers is at the heart of the readings for today as the Gospel invites us to no longer see God as a distant master to be feared. God loves us with that same love which leads Jesus to give his life for us. Changing our perception of God is one barrier to be overcome, but there is another, our perception of ourselves. Fear can keep us from God, from ourselves, and others. Invited to see ourselves as God's friends we are also invited to respond by sharing in Jesus' mission. To use the Gospel's words, we are commissioned to bear fruit, to overcome our reserve, and join in the task of loving one another as Jesus has already loved us. In Jesus' resurrection, we are not just saved from death, perhaps even more importantly, we are shown how to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (or Alleluia!)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John
God is love.

My dear people,

let us love one another

since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,

because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son

so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,

but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.