

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Year B): ~ 14-15 August 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, Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth

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 Acting Principal: Jayne Bosworth ☎ 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
St. Patrick's Primary School Principal: Mr Paul McDowell ☎ 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections in Church last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$381.15	Parish: \$160.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$532.00

Planned Giving Program

If you have not yet received your Planned Giving Envelopes for this financial year, please notify the Parish Secretary.

COVID - Mass Attendance

The number of persons wishing to attend week-end masses will be restricted due to COVID density quotients (one person per 4 sq metres). If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Secretary on 0492903409.

For those parishioners unable to attend mass this week-end, copies of this week's Combined Newsletter will be placed

outside of St Patrick's Church, Gordon and St. Brigid's Church, Ballan for pick up.

COVID-19 Safe Guidelines:

All parishioners are requested to follow COVID-19 Safe Guidelines & remember to check-in using the Service Victoria QR Code app or complete the sign-in register.

FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY INSIDE THE CHURCH

For more info go to:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>. Updates also available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churchs-information-and-advice-2/>.

Our Diocesan Community - Issue 2 2021 is now available.

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

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 Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604 www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$306.00	Parish: \$385.00
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COVID - Mass Attendance

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For those parishioners unable to attend mass this week-end, copies of this week's Combined Newsletter will be placed outside of St. Brendan's Church, Dunnstown for pick up.

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Updates available from diocesan website

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	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
14/15 August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Apoc 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10; Lk 1: 39-56		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Hugh Ryan		Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Maria Donegan, Eddie Davis		Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Marie Shanahan, Julie Dargan		Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
21/22 August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Josh 24: 1-2, 15-18; Eph 5: 21-32		
Clarkes Hill-6.30pm	Marty Forbes, Helen Mahar		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Therese Winter, Debbie Goldie		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Margaret Green, Mark Conlan		Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of each Month
28/29 August	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Deut 4: 1-2, 6-8; James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-22		
Springbank-6.30pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Bungaree-8.45am	Terry Elliot		Saturday- Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30am	Willie Zammit, Lloyd Lamb		

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 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	Clarkes 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: Kath Jeffery, Bill McGuire, Leo Kelly, Sr. Lawrence, Tom Parkin, Sam Galea, Lorraine Polkinghorne, Margaret Britt, Thomas Torpy, Joseph Barbara, Anne and John Feild, Con Clifford, Sylvia Finlayson, Mary Lee, James Donegan, George Hamm, Frank Graham, John McCormack, Nina Cassar and Nicholas McGuigan.

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

Baptisms: We welcome Lachy Simpson who will be baptised this weekend at St. Brigid's Church, Ballan into our faith community. We also celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Lacey Toohey and Millicent Simpson. *Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflection: Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Lara Kirk, Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, reflects on "The Holy Family" <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

National Day of Prayer – The Church Together: Sunday, August 22, 2021

The team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting, in consultation with many church leaders and prayer networks, including Bishop Philip Huggins and the National Council of Churches, is calling Australia to unite in prayer in the light of the current COVID-19 crisis. The theme is found in this beautiful liturgical prayer: "Lord have mercy — Jesus have mercy". We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way at this time. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities: Every day from Monday 16 – Sunday, August 22 a Daily Devotion will be sent out to those who register. Each Daily Devotion will include a prayer from a different Church leader. Every night from 8.00pm AEST, Monday 16 – Sunday, August 22 a nightly Prayer Call will take place with input from a different church leader each night. On Sunday, August 22 from 9.00am – 9.00pm the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team will host a Zoom Prayer call featuring Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Let us join in prayer for our nation. Register at <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021.

'His mercy reaches from age to age' Luke 1:39-56 God is asking us to refrain from putting barriers and obstacles in the way of God's mercy reaching the least, the lost and those who feel excluded, especially those who do not yet know the love of God. God is asking us to be a Church that walks together and does not leave anyone behind. (Humble, Healing and Merciful - Discernment Paper p.6), <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/> You are invited to join the national prayer campaign and in a special way support the ongoing journey of the Plenary Council. As the first Assembly in October 2021 draws nearer, all people are invited to become 'Prayer Partners' to accompany the Members and invoke the Holy Spirit on this historic gathering for the Church in Australia. The "Fan the Flame" resources have been designed so they can be used by individuals or by groups of any size and in any setting. They include material for each week, and as well as material to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources accessed at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

Crying Out: Exploring the "Statement from the Heart" and care for the environment

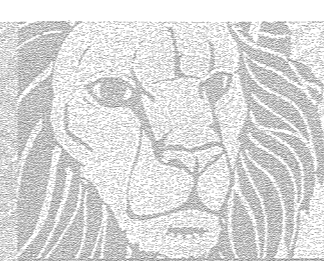
The Uniting Church – Roman Catholic Dialogue of South Australia group have been reflecting on two main issues: the place of our First Nations sisters and brothers in Australia, especially in light of the 2017 Uluru Statement of the Heart, and the growing concern over the environment, global warming and treatment of the Earth and have produced the resource "Crying Out: Exploring the Statement from the Heart and Care for the Environment." Through its four sessions, this resource offers people to reflect, in the light of our faith traditions, on the deep cry that comes from our indigenous sisters and brothers which finds an echo in the cry of our earth and to suggest ways that we might respond. The website www.sadialoguercuc.org offers a guide to assist in the leadership of small group discussions.

Social Justice Sunday – August 29, 2021

The launch of the Social Justice Statement was held on August 5 and Bishop Paul features in this video. Watch it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvLX2BQjOjM&feature=emb_logo

The Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. Download the statement from the ACBC Office for Social Justice website <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>.





She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –

of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

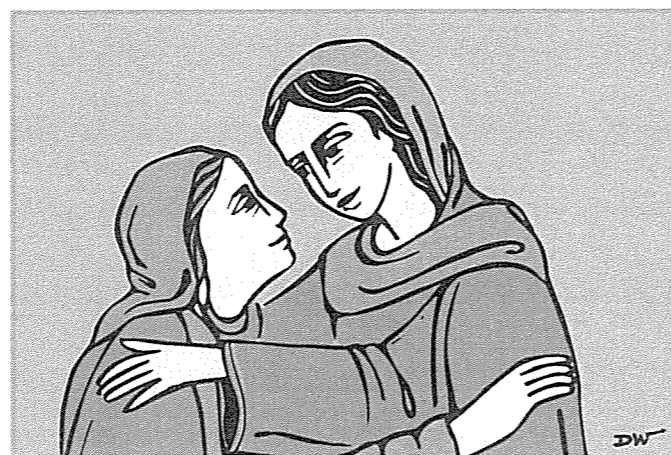
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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ANTICIPATING OUR RESURRECTION

What do we Catholics mean when we express our conviction that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory? Are we simply heaping praises upon Mary for her 'specialness'? Or is there something deeper at stake?

In fact, like all Marian teachings, the Assumption speaks of the saving love of Christ that envelops our human lives. 'For the Son of God became human, so that we might become God' is a saying of the Church Fathers (cf. *Catechism*, 460). Mary, the 'first disciple' of Jesus Christ, walks with and before us in our own path of Christian discipleship. Her singular participation in her Son's Resurrection is an anticipation of *our* resurrection. *Who Mary is, we are becoming.* One day we, too, will live forever with God in heavenly glory.

The Assumption is a compelling celebration of Christian hope, an affirmation of the human body, and deep-down encouragement in our earthly struggles.

Teresa Pirola

FIRST READING

Apoc 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

■ The word of the Lord.

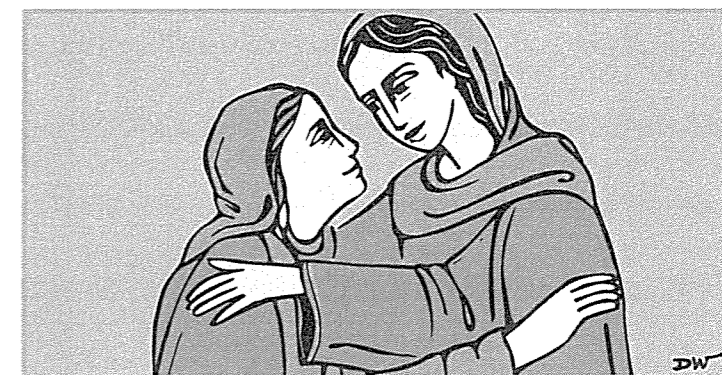
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 44: 10-12, 16. R. v. 10

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. / On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. / Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: / forget your own people and your father's house. R.

2. So will the king desire your beauty: / he is your lord, pay homage to him. / They are escorted amid gladness and joy; / they pass within the palace of the king. R.



SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 20-26

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

As members of Christ all people will be raised, Christ first and after him all who belong to him.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1: 39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah.

Reflections on St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

by Fr John Monaghan PP Marborough

Sunday 8th August 2021

This year we celebrate the 200 year bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia. Millions of children have benefitted from and continue to be blessed through Catholic schooling including in rural and remote areas across our nation. We're most grateful for the Sisters of St Brigid coming to Maryborough to commence teaching at St Augustine's School in 1902, their wonderful presence with us through till Sr Barbara's time and continuing on through the Brigidine tradition that remains an essential part of our School's heritage and fundamental values.

There've been various religious orders of St Joseph in our diocese, including the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and the Diocesan Sisters of St Joseph; called the "Black Josephites" because of the colour of their habit – as in what they wear rather than an unhealthy addiction! These were later known as the Federation Josephites. The first Black Josephites came to Dunolly in 1906 and taught the children in St Mary's Church till the old Tarnagulla church was moved to Dunolly and turned into classrooms. By 1914 they'd left Dunolly and returned to NSW. This opened the way for three sisters of Mary MacKillop's Brown Josephites – affectionately referred to as the "Brown Joeys" to distinguish themselves from their Black Josephite cousins – to come to Dunolly and re-open the school in 1915 where they taught till 1923, supporting themselves by teaching music after school. Dunolly is the first place where Mary MacKillop's order established themselves in our Ballarat diocese. They'd already begun teaching at Springbank (1913) and Gordon (1914) but those places weren't part of our diocese till many years later.

They were immensely poor and, when their Dunolly numbers were reduced from three to two in 1919, Fr Coughlin protested at the unfairness of this; saying the remaining excellent teachers were altogether overworked ... "After a hard day's work at school, going from daylight till dusk with extras like music and typewriting, they must set to light the fire and cook something for themselves." Anxious to keep the sisters, he pointed out that they offered much more to a community than simply a school for Catholic children ("From Humble Beginnings" pp 63-64 cf "Advocate" 10/7/1924 p. 37).

I count myself very blessed to have received my own primary schooling from the Josephites at St Pat's School, Stawell and I know that life was very tough for them there – hopefully not from my behaviour – but from them later telling me how grateful they were for my father imploring the parish priest for financial assistance so they could survive. Dad also voluntarily provided wood for their stove and heating for over 50 years; my first memories of their convent being helping him load and unload wood and stack this in their woodshed.

My first encounter with Mary MacKillop, before I knew her name or anything else about her, was when I began in Preps at St Pat's 60 years ago in 1961. Above the blackboard in my class of 50 Prep, Grade 1 & 2 students was a crucifix and Mary's photo; similarly in the other two classrooms. There are probably very few Catholic schools where people other than saints are given such a prominent place. It was another personal blessing for me to attend Mary MacKillop's Canonisation in Rome on 17th October 2010 which in a profound way for my family was on the anniversary of our dad's death. This followed

celebrating my first Mass as a priest on Mary's Feast Day of today, 8th August, 40 years ago.

At Mary's canonisation, I met a group of parishioners and their priest from Fort William and Roy Bridge, Scotland, where Mary's parents emigrated from, and realised she's held in equally high esteem there. When I visited Fort William in 2015, I enjoyed a drink at the Ben Nevis Bar where Mary's mum, Flora MacDonald, was born in 1766. While less than a hundred metres from the official end of the 154km West Highland Way from Glasgow, I considered this a more appropriate destination for a dry, weary Aussie walker and highly recommend both the walk to and drink at the Ben Nevis Bar to anyone able to make their way there when international borders are re-opened.

In 2019 I visited Inverness, on the other side of Scotland, and stumbled across a beautiful stained glass window of Mary MacKillop in St Mary's church; along with an accompanying stained glass image of Australia flanked by the Scottish and Australian flags. Closer to home, there's a terrific Interpretive Centre at Penola SA, where Mary founded her religious order, filled with anything and everything about her and her Josephite mentor, Fr Julian Tenison Woods. This can be reached by walking the 200km Aussie Camino from Mary's family home in Portland, as I did with 15 others in May this year or, in non-border restriction times, one can drive there.

Today, hundreds of Sisters of St Joseph continue Mary's work for the poor and marginalised across Australia and New Zealand and in Ireland, East Timor, Brazil and Peru; in a diversity of roles including pastoral work, teaching, nursing and aged care, adult education and migrant support. MacKillop Family Services is a major social welfare provider in Victoria and elsewhere in Australia, caring for needy families, out of home care children and vulnerable adults.

With Jesus, Mary MacKillop trusted in God's all-embracing providence; that there's no person or place who are too distant from God's love and our ability to care for each other. She said to her religious Sisters: "Never see a need without doing something about it" and spent her life doing all she could to address the needs of people of her time which probably in many ways aren't so different from our time when we now need to rely on one another more than ever. God's generosity in caring for the flowers of the fields and the birds in the sky is certainly reflected in Mary and her "Brown Joeys" love for our land and all who with them are blessed with residing here.