

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B): ~ 21-22 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: \$356.80	Parish: \$243.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$775.00 (updated)

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:	\$414.00	Parish:	\$510.00
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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. Peter's Church, Clarkes Hill for pick up.

COVID-19 Safe Guidelines:

All parishioners are requested to follow COVID-19 Safe Guidelines and 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 info go to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>.

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	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
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		Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Therese Winter, Debbie Goldie		Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Margaret Green, Mark Conlan		Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
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 - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree-8.45am	Terry Elliot		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Willie Zammit, Lloyd Lamb		Holy Hour - 1st Thursday of each Month
4/5 September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 35: 4-7; James 2: 1-5		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Mick McKay		Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Gordon -8.45am	Joan Bourke		Saturday- Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30am	Bert Jarvis, Lin Bowers		

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: Ken Ludbrook, Margaret Spence, David Griffiths, Stan Slatter, Bill Nunn, Ton Clifford, George Dusa, Merle Blizzard, Michael Ronan, Brian Blood, Jim Conroy, Joseph Camilleri, William Gleeson, Velia McFall and Kathleen Ledwidge.

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 Billy James Rix who will be baptised this weekend at St. Michael's Church, Springbank into our faith community.

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> Copies of *Reflections-The Holy Family* can be picked up at Church.

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

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. Come for a short while or come for a long while. 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

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. They include materials to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Go to www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinar - Being Alive in the Spirit

Leisa Anslinger, Associate Director for Pastoral Vitality for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the founder of Catholic Life and Faith, a centre for evangelization, stewardship, and servant leadership development, will join local presenters as we share how we continue to be Alive in the Spirit. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, Aug 24, 2021 from 10.00am – 11.30am (AEST) is open to all who seeks continual renewal in the Spirit. For more info go to <https://aliveintheflame.com.au/oceania-webinar-with-leisa-anslinger/>

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 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/>.

World Day of Prayer for the Environment (1 September)

Pope Francis has set aside 1st September each year for praying for the care of creation. For news, prayers & other resources Go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Celebrate-World-Day-of-Prayer/> and <https://justiceandpeace.org.au/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation/> The Season of Creation is celebrated from 1st September to 4th October (Feast St Francis of Assisi). The next issue of *living Liturgy* will have resources and music suggestions, links to how your community can make meaningful changes to live more sustainably and in harmony with the earth. Read *Laudato Si'* and visit the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform to see how we can all play our part. <https://laudatosiplatform.org/>

Engaging Your Faith is a series of 13 online sessions offered by the Catholic Theological College/University of Divinity from 21st August to 16th September. Topics cover many interesting facets of Christian teachings through reflection and meditation. The first session will be held on 21 August at 2pm "Lectio Divina: A Contemplative Way of Reading the Bible" by Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche. The following session on Monday 23 August at 7pm "Mercy in the Gospel According to Mark" will be run by Dr Rosemary Canavan. Online delivery via Zoom. Registration is essential, \$20 per session. Flyers available via email and at Church. Visit the Engaging Your Faith webpage for more detail at <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

Major earthquake hits Haiti

There is an urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid for the peoples of Haiti. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 6:63, 68
Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 6:60-69
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of
everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers
of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How
could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that
his followers were complaining about it and
said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should
see the Son of Man ascend to where he was
before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.'
For Jesus knew from the outset those who did
not believe, and who it was that would betray
him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no
one could come to me unless the Father allows
him.' After this, many of his disciples left him
and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about
you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter
answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have
the message of eternal life, and we believe; we
know that you are the Holy One of God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

22 AUGUST 2021

MAKING DECISIONS

In the lives of us all there are moments when
we have to make decisions – decisions which
will radically shape our future. When Joshua
gathered all the people of Israel to the shrine of
Shechem it was a moment of decision. Having
finally taken possession of their own land,
the risk was that they would be assimilated
into the religious culture of the people that
surrounded them. An even greater danger was
that of forgetting the God who had made all
this possible. Joshua saw that the time had
come for the people of Israel to choose.

In a similar fashion, as Jesus concludes the
bread of life discourse, his disciples and his
contemporaries are challenged to decide
where their allegiance lies. While Jesus' words
are a scandal for even some of the disciples,
the Twelve, through Peter, decide that Jesus'
message is truly life-giving and that it comes
from God.

The decision which is envisaged in the second
reading is that married couples decide to
model their relationship on the love that
Jesus has shown in giving up his life for us all.
The regulation of relationships in households
found here is clearly coloured by its first
century context and its language of submission
can give the modern reader a jolt. Despite this
there are reciprocal demands made on both
spouses to model their love on that of Jesus
who gave his life for us all.

FIRST READING Josh 24:1-2, 15-18
A reading from the book of Joshua.

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is
our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together
at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders,
judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented
themselves before God. Then Joshua said to
all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord,
choose today whom you wish to serve, whether
the gods that your ancestors served beyond the
River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land
you are now living. As for me and my House,
we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention
of deserting the Lord our God who brought
us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt,
the house of slavery, who worked those great
wonders before our eyes and preserved us all
along the way we travelled and among all the
peoples through whom we journeyed. We too
will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9
R. **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

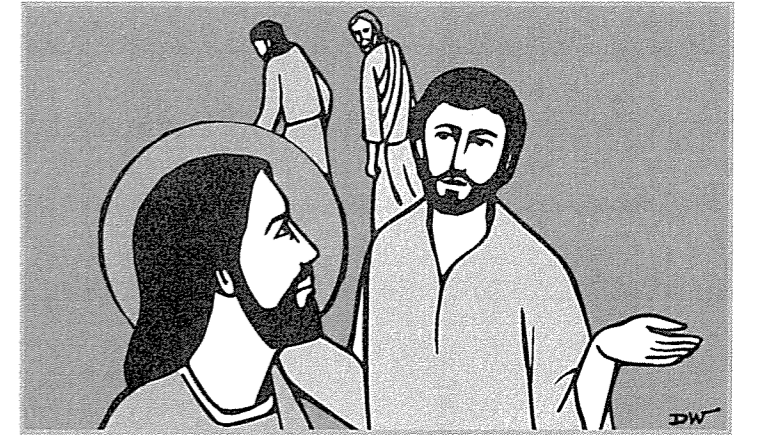
1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise
always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall
make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be
glad. R.

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked /
to destroy their remembrance from the earth. /
The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his
ears to their appeal. R.

3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues
them in all their distress. / The Lord is close
to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is
crushed he will save. R.

4. Many are the trials of the just man / but
from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He
will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of
his bones shall be broken. R.

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those
who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord



ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who
hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

SECOND READING Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and
the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to
Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as
they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of
the Church and saves the whole body, so is a
husband the head of his wife; and as the Church
submits to Christ, so should wives to their
husbands, in everything. Husbands should love
their wives just as Christ loved the Church and
sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He
made her clean by washing her in water with
a form of words, so that when he took her to
himself she would be glorious, with no speck
or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and
faultless. In the same way, husbands must love
their wives as they love their own bodies; for a
man to love his wife is for him to love himself.
A man never hates his own body, but he feeds
it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ
treats the Church, because it is his body – and
we are its living parts. For this reason, a man
must leave his father and mother and be joined
to his wife, and the two will become one body.
This mystery has many implications; but I am
saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Christopher Monaghan CP

YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH



“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

REFLECTION - AUGUST 2021

The Holy Family

I can't relate to the Holy Family. Mary was completely without sin, Jesus was God and Joseph was a saint. That doesn't sound a whole lot like my family!

Thoughts or comments like these can easily arise when trying to engage with the subject of the Holy Family. Yet, in this Year of St Joseph (which has dovetailed nicely into the Year Amoris Laetitia Family), the Church is encouraging us anew to draw grace and strength from the fully human, grace-filled family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

If we desire to draw closer to this little family of Nazareth, then, we may need to explore some of the unconscious assumptions that can create resistance in our minds and hearts.

We may assume, for instance, that being able to resist sin perfectly (or with growing perfection in the case of Joseph) makes Jesus, Mary and Joseph "unrelatable". But is it our sins that "make us human" or that help us feel close to and connected with others?

A little reflection, assisted by Church teaching, will reveal that in fact the opposite is true. Sin makes us "less than human". It robs us of our true humanity and of our capacity to connect with others. It demeans and demoralises us and turns us in on ourselves.



To the extent that the members of the Holy Family were able to resist sin and selfishness, they were able to be fully human. The Holy Family can inspire us by their example of being richly and warmly present to each other, to their extended family, to their community and to the world they found themselves in.

The fact that Jesus, a holy man and preacher, was so comfortable in the company of outcasts and sinners bears testimony to the hospitality and compassion expressed in the family home at Nazareth. Their neighbours would have known them as "good people", people you could go to in a crisis, people who wouldn't judge you or look down on you or air your dirty laundry. Jesus learnt in the family home to be compassionate, accepting and merciful.

The fact that Jesus loved to share meals, to tell stories and to attend celebrations shows that his home life was rich and celebratory. The fact that his stories are full of images from domestic life – cooking and cleaning; from agriculture – sowing and reaping; from business – debt collectors and employers; and from nature – the lilies of the field; indicates that his parents encouraged a grounded, well-rounded appreciation of all aspects of human existence.

The fact that Jesus, while gentle and humble of heart, was also free in speaking his mind, calling out hypocrisy and expressing his grief, anger, joy or affection, bears testimony to a home environment which "held space" for robust conversations and the healthy expression of emotion.

We can also make the assumption that there would have been something other-worldly or superhuman about the Holy Family. But there is simply no evidence for this.

The fact that we know next to nothing about the details of Jesus' first 30 years of life denotes that those around them noticed nothing "novel" or "exotic" about the Holy Family of Nazareth. In fact, the Gospel of Thomas, in which the child Jesus was depicted performing supernatural feats, was rejected by the early Church as inauthentic.

The Holy Family were not superhuman; they were fully human and extra-ordinary. They didn't have a crystal ball that told them how their life would turn out. They had to live and grow through space and time like the rest of us, trusting that God is good and that ultimately he has everything in hand. They had to exercise faith. They had to choose hope and they had to learn how to accept and appreciate the gift of each other's unique personhood just like we do.

Nor did resisting sin mean they were free from temptation, discouragement, doubt, fear, misunderstandings, hurt, anxiety, stress or grief.

They had many trials to endure: an importunate pregnancy, social disgrace, homelessness, fleeing an oppressive regime, on the run for their lives, precarious employment. Did they need to rely on the kindness of others, on charity, to make it through? Jesus was later to declare that "the Son of Man has no place to lay his head". Was this another lesson learnt from his parents' stories of their early married life?

The story of Jesus being lost for days during the extended family pilgrimage home from Jerusalem shows that, like us, the Holy Family could not read each other's minds. Despite the purity of their love for each other, Mary and Joseph still could not fully understand each other during their life on earth and nor could they fully understand their son.

The human reality of their essential separateness as individuals as they strove to build communion as a family would have produced all the same frustrations and anxieties that all human beings experience in relationships. And God has willed it this way.

The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* beautifully articulates the complexity of what it means to be human and it is good to reflect that every member of the Holy Family, being fully human, would have experienced these complexities.

In every human person "many elements wrestle with one another... on the one hand, as a creature he experiences his limitations in a multitude of ways; on the other he feels himself to be boundless in his desires and summoned to a higher life" (GS 10). Every person "remains to himself an unsolved puzzle" to which "only God fully and most certainly provides an answer as He summons each person to higher knowledge and humbler probing" (GS 21).

Every person has "a secret core and sanctuary" where he "is alone with God, whose voice echoes in the depths" (GS 16). By his innermost nature, man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential (GS 12). Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself (GS 24).

Thus Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to undertake the same fundamental human task we all do of growing in self-knowledge and self-possession and of learning how to freely give themselves

to each other and enter into communion with one another and with God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 357). This all took time, patience, forgiveness, understanding, humility, growth in maturity, life experience, openness and learning skills of trust and communication.

The Holy Family are much more like us than they are different from us and they have much to teach us about what it means to be fully human. Let's draw close to these good people, who learnt through trials and sufferings and joys how to walk humbly with God and to trust in his provident goodness.

Let the Holy Family encourage us, that as we open the ordinariness of our lives and relationships to his grace, God can bring about his saving plan.

Lara Kirk has over 20 years experience speaking with young people about marriage and sexuality. She currently works for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn as Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator. Lara is married to Tim and together they have five children.

