

## 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

No Mass will be held this weekend in the Parish of Gordon due to COVID restrictions.

The Combined Newsletter will be available via email.

Hard copies will be available inside the Churches when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Our Diocesan Community - Issue 2 2021 is now available.

### Thank You

"Margaret and Catherine Green would like to thank the people of the Parish of Gordon and St Brigid's community for their prayers, and their care and support during John's illness and following John's recent passing. John greatly enjoyed the friendship of the people of St Brigid's community and the wider Parish, and he valued these connections as an important part of his life".

## 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

No Mass will be held this weekend in the Parish of Bungaree due to COVID restrictions.

The Combined Newsletter will be available via email.

Hard copies will be available when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Our Diocesan Community - Issue 2 2021 is now available.

**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.

LITURGIES / WEEKDAY MASSES					
Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 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	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					

**Recent Deaths:** Anna Paarhammer and Robert Marshall (who passed away last Wednesday night at his home in Ballan).

**Anniversaries:** Con Toohey, Brian O'Regan, Patricia Ryan, Therese Johnson, Maureen Everard, Maureen Maher, Rita Powell, Sylvia Fisher, Jim Caddy, Dawn Kelly, Elsie Butler, Emma Squire, Frank Kennedy, Martin Gleeson, Patrick Keating, and Dorothy O'Donohue.

**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

### Plenary Council - Continuing the Journey

The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to the impact of COVID-19 and the restrictions which do not allow people to gather. With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can however reflect and pray with the sixteen questions that form the agenda. With this in mind, we extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED HANDOUT (Hard copies of the handout available from Church after COVID Restrictions lifted). Please feel free to complete this individually or after lockdown as part of a small group depending on COVID restrictions. It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

As we are not able to gather as a community at this time due to COVID restrictions, this opportunity to respond may be a way for you to spend some quiet time in reflection, thinking about the agenda of the Council and the future of the Church, on your life and prayer life. It may be of comfort to know that others from your faith community may be reflecting on this at a similar time.

Another way of "Continuing the Journey" is taking part in the national prayer campaign and in a special way support 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 parishes with groups of any size and in any setting. They include material for each week as well as material that can be used at any time to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/>

Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021. 'This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.' Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey? (Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013) <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/>

### 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](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". 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sept each for praying for the care of creation. Read *Laudato Si'* and visit the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform to see how we can all play our part. <https://laudatosiplatform.org/>

For info 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (Feast St Francis of Assisi).

**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. Online delivery via Zoom. Registration is essential, \$20 per session. Visit the *Engaging Your Faith* webpage for more detail at <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

### "Mission: one heart many voices" Virtual Conference

Inspired by Jesus, this conference will focus on themes of encounter on the margins, inclusion, governance and synodality and challenge you to consider contemporary mission in light of Pope Francis' teaching, witness and vision of liminal leadership in mission. The Conference is from September 1-3, 2021 and is being convened by Catholic Religious Australia in conjunction with Catholic Mission. An opportunity not to be missed. Check it out at <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>.

### 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.





The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## BE OPEN TO CHANGE

Often there is tension in our lives as we struggle to determine how to be faithful to the past and yet open to the demands of the present and the call of the future. Can what is good and true change and take on new forms? In the area of technology, the matter is often clearer than in the life of faith.

Confronted with Moses' demand that nothing of the law be changed or deleted what options did the Pharisees have for change? Deletion of any of Moses' regulations was tantamount to rejection of God's own word. They dealt with the demands of the present by a rigorous faithfulness to the traditions which they had received. From their perspective who was Jesus to challenge these traditions? What Jesus characterised as hypocrisy they saw as faithfulness to the demands of the living God. The problem was that of discerning that the living God was speaking anew through Jesus who stood before them. Faithfulness to what God has spoken absents none of us from the demand of listening to what God is speaking to us today; *the challenge lies in recognising it and responding with generosity.*

The letter of James also addresses this challenge by reminding us that while God's truth is unchanging, we are called to listen to the word which has been planted in our hearts. It is a word which is dynamic and growing – a word whose clearest demand is to reach out in love to those who cannot defend themselves.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

*You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

**R.** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. **R.**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**



## SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

*Be doers of the word.*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.*





# Continuing the Journey



The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes because of the impact of COVID-19. What hasn't changed is the heart of the journey – the discernment process.

We are mindful of all those who have made a significant contribution to the Plenary Council journey so far through the responses submitted during the time of listening, dialogue, and discernment; as well as the work of the members of the Six Discernment and Writing Groups.

The other important milestone celebrated recently is the publication of the Agenda for the Plenary Council. It charges the Members with the responsibility of developing "concrete proposals" for the Church in Australia in response to sixteen questions born of the last three years of conversation and discernment. It is important for all of us to remember when reading the Agenda that it is to be addressed over the entirety of the time we "celebrate" the Plenary Council. This includes the first Assembly in October 2021, the months between the two assemblies and the second Assembly in July 2022.

We extend an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. You can do this by commenting on the agenda below or by responding on the next page.

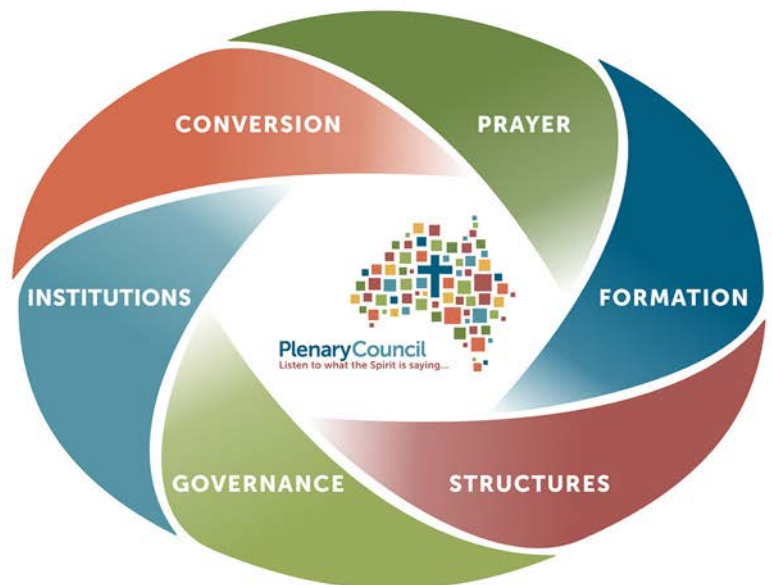
Responses can be made by either individuals or groups in your parish or community (adhering to COVID-19 restrictions). They do not have to be formal - they can be written or in poems or pictures, songs or prayers.

## FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA **AGENDA**

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

*'I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'*

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27*



Agenda continued next page

Comments on the Agenda can be made here:

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## Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to 'ecological conversion'? How can we express and promote a commitment to an 'integral ecology of life' in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

## Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to "make disciples of all the nations"?
- How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

## Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

## Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJPs and new communities?

## Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

## Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

### *You are invited to respond to the following:*

You are invited to share briefly the impact of COVID-19 on your life and your faith life.

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What has changed for you in relation to the Plenary Council since COVID-19?

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Any further comment you would like to share?

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**Responses can be submitted: Pastoral Ministry Office, PO Box 576, Ballarat, 3353 or email: [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au)**