

Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Year A): 31 December 2022/1 January 2023



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON

St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

Parish Priest: Fr. Justin Driscoll - ☎ 5368 9280

Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey

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)

PARISH VISION: That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Parish Schools

St. Brigid's Primary School
St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth:
Principal: Mr Paul McDowell

☎ 5368 1015
☎ 5368 9495

www.sbballan.catholic.edu.au
www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections last week

Presbytery: \$1590.35	Parish: \$350.00
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Christmas Dues: \$745.00; Bishop's Appeal: \$1058.00

Thank You: We sincerely thank all parishioners for their generous contributions towards the support and wellbeing

of our parish, and their recognition of the importance of the Bishop's Appeal this year.

2023 Columban Art Calendar: Cost: \$10. Calendars will be available in the New Year.

Parish Office Closed: The Parish Office will be closed during the first and second weeks of January. The Office will re-open on Tuesday, 17 January 2023.



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 Leadership Team: Damien Ryan, Barry Sheehan, Dianne Reynolds, Dom Prendergast, Marty Forbes, Chris Frawley & Inez French.

Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5334 0450 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

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery: \$890.00	Parish: \$920.00
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Christmas Dues: \$260.00; Bishop's Appeal: \$450.00

Thank You: We are extremely appreciative of your generous donations to the Parish, and contribution to the Bishop's Appeal.

2023 Columban Art Calendar: Cost: \$10. Calendars will be available in the New Year.

Thank You: We thank everyone who helped clean and prepare our churches during Advent and Christmas masses. We also thank our liturgy readers and parishioners who selected the music played during the masses and assisted in our collections.

Parish Office Hours: The Parish Office will be closed during the first and second weeks of January. The Office will re-open on Thursday, 19 January 2023

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
31 December/1 January 2023	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Num 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7		
Dunnstown - 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon - 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan - 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis		Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of every month
7/8 January 2023	The Epiphany of the Lord Isa 60:1-6; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6		
Springbank - 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree - 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan - 10.30 am	Julie Dargan		
14/15 January 2023	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3		
Dunnstown - 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon - 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan - 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit		Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree

LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES

	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
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 6.30pm - 1st Sunday ~ Daylesford 6.30pm ~3rd Sunday Sunday Masses ~ Creswick 9am - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday; Daylesford 10.30 am - 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday					

Adoration of the Shepherds by Guido Reni Public Domain

Anniversaries: Jack Geary, James Toohey, Eddie Mullane, Bill Winter, Charlie Mangion, Joe Mangion, Ted Mulcahy, Michael Conroy, Patricia Kirby, Leonard Adams, Annie E. Graham, Joseph Grabovic, Victoria Everett, Gerald Leonard, Catherine Hanrahan, Neil O'Loughlin, Kevin Jones, May Kirby, John Barton.



We offer our prayers for the sick: Lyla Geary, Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Moira Myers, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, Chaiel Balcombe Jackson and John Healy

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 – view at www.thepopevideo.org. **Pope's intention for January - For educators:** *We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.*

RCIA for Children: We are inviting expressions of interest from parents who seek baptism for their children who are 7 years and older who have not yet been baptised. *Expression of Interest Forms* have been placed in the churches or ring the Parish Office (mobile: 0492903409).

2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or info@lifestyletravel.com.au

Helping those affected by floods: St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions: Call 13 18 12 or visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>. Make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

Advance Notice:

Rite of Election 2023: Saturday, February 25 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

Mass of the Oils 2023: Monday, April 3 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

56th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2023:

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.

In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 16-21

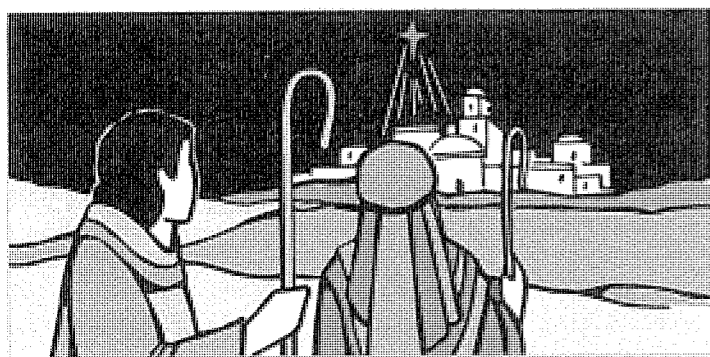
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the
infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day
came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

FIRST READING

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*They will call down my name on the children of
Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. R.



2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. R.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

SECOND READING

Gal 4: 4-7

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

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son,
born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

■ The word of the Lord.