

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 28/29 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, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley, Mark Conlan

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

Principal: Ms 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 last week

Presbytery: \$314.35	Parish: \$111.00
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Parish Leadership Team Update: We thank Marie Shanahan who resigned last December for her invaluable assistance to the Parish over many years, and welcome Mark Conlan to the Leadership Team. Mark, along with Nola Kersley, will be representing the Ballan community.

Thank You: 'Thanks to all those who generously donated goods to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal organised by the St Brigid's parishioners. The donations were distributed to less fortunate families and individuals in the local community. Vinnies greatly appreciate the

ongoing support of the broader Ballan community.' Michael Ryan, Ballarat Regional Council President St Vincent de Paul Society.

Reminder: The Professional Standards Office is reminding all members of the Gordon Leadership Team to complete the **Safetrac online training course by 4 February**. If you did not receive an email invitation from Safetrac on 6 December 2022 inviting you to register for the Course: Safeguarding Children at the Diocese of Ballarat, contact the Parish Secretary at: gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au/ by 31 January. If you have not yet completed the training module, please do so before next weekend. Thank you.



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

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

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: \$NA	Parish: \$NA
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Reminder: The Professional Standards Office is reminding all members of the Bungaree Leadership Team to complete the **Safetrac online training course by 4 February**. If you did not receive an email invitation from Safetrac on 6 December 2022 inviting you to register for the Course: Safeguarding Children at the Diocese of Ballarat, contact the Parish Secretary: bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au/ If

you have not yet completed the course, please do so before next week-end. If you have done so, thank you.

Bungaree Leadership Team Meeting: The first meeting for 2023 will be held on 7th February at 7.30 pm at the Bungaree Presbytery. Please contact Damien Ryan if you have any matters that you would like included on the agenda at ryandjr@bigpond.com or phone 0437 125 062.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
28/29 January 2023	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1: 26-31		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month
4/5 February 2023	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 58: 7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Tania Hoffman	Mark & Sue Conlan	
11/12 February 2023	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	Shelley Ryan		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Mark Conlan	Rosemary & Michael Canavan	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	Clarks Hill / Ballan	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	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					

Saint Brigid of Ireland, glass, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Georgia, USA. Author: Octave 444. Licence: Creative Commons.



Anniversaries: Frank McDaid, Christopher Davies, Catherine Butler, Mary Blood, Philip Crowe, John Falko, Justin Toohey, Des Quinlan, Audrey Reddie, Morrie Holloway, Kathryn Gray, Vin O'Donohue, Ted Cass, Noel Quinlan and Catherine Torpy.

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. **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.*

St Brigid's Feast Day – February 1: Congratulations to the staff, students, and parents at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, and the parishioners of St Brigid's Church as they commemorate the feast day of St Brigid.

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: 0492 903 409).

Convocation on Synodality – why we should care? Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, will introduce a virtual Convocation, 'The Synod on Synodality: Why we should care' at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 2. Speakers, Susan Pascoe, Francis Sullivan and Patricia Gemmill, will discuss the 'Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod' and current work on the imminent Bishops' response. Free registration at www.garratt.com.au

Word of God Sunday, February 5th 2023:

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 5 in 2023 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.

The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body. (Dei Verbum, 21)

An important point to remember here is the Second Vatican Council's insight that Christ's presence is recognised in the actual "proclamation" of the Word, when the Church believes that Christ is present and speaking to those assembled through the words of the Church's minister [Sacrosanctum concilium (1963) art. 7], rather than in the physical book itself. For the Word of God Sunday 2023, Pope Francis writes:

'I would like to conclude by simply thanking those who work to make sure that the Word of God is shared, proclaimed and put at the centre of our lives. Thank you to those who study and delve into the riches of the Word. Thank you to the pastoral workers and to all Christians engaged in the work of listening to and spreading the Word, especially lectors and catechists.'

To acknowledge the importance of the Word of God proclaimed at our Masses, and as a way of recognising those who proclaim that Word for us, we will commission all of those who undertake this ministry at our Masses next weekend, February 4th – 5th. This will take place after the homily before the Creed.

Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions: The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more information please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for

what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the

cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 JANUARY 2023

WORKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

There is a consistency between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel of today in that they speak of the qualities that should mark the life of faith in the face of difficulty – integrity, humility, truthfulness, and steadfastness. There is a call to hope that despite the presence of obstacles, misunderstanding, and sometimes rejection, God still has the power to intervene in our world. For the people in exile, it was no easy matter to continue to believe that God would intervene to re-establish the faithful in their own land. Would it have been any easier for the people of Jesus' time to hear the words of the beatitudes that proclaimed comfort for mourners, or a sumptuous banquet for those who were starving? There is a fundamental challenge that underlies both these readings: do we really believe that God's kingdom can be established in our midst? Secondly, are we prepared to work to bring that kingdom into reality?

While the Christians of Corinth felt they were living in that reality Paul knew that while there was division the process of conversion still had a long way to go. Paul was convinced that there is no place for competition or envy. He had already used the example of Jesus' humble death to show them that jealousy is misplaced in the Christian community since Jesus displayed his power in humble service. He now goes one step further reminding the Corinthians that their own humble origin is a sign that God's call is best received with humble gratitude.

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave

a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,

will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or **Alleluia!**)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 26-31

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad:

your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!