

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 4/5 February 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: \$478.65	Parish: \$2354.00
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Welcome: Welcome to Fr Denis Ryan who will celebrate the Masses at Ballan and Gordon this Sunday. Fr Denis is a senior priest of the Diocese of Ballarat living in Geelong.

Gordon Parish Leadership Team: The first meeting of the Leadership Team will be held in the gathering space at St Brigid's Church Ballan on Wed, February 8th at 7.30pm.

St Brigid's School Mass: St Brigid's School Ballan opening of the school year Mass will be held at the Church on Friday February 10th at 12 Noon. Parishioners are invited to

join the children, staff and families to pray this Mass as we begin our year together. Welcome!

Preparing Children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Wednesday March 1st at 7.00pm a parent information event will be held at St Brigid's Ballan to provide parents with an introduction to the sacrament of Reconciliation for their children. Parents of children who are baptised Catholic and in Year 3 or above are welcome to enrol their children in this family based, parish coordinated Catholic school supported sacramental program.



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: \$790.00	Parish: \$380.00
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Christmas Dues: \$100.00

Thank You: We sincerely thank all parishioners who give so generously to these collections.

Columban Calendars: Available for pick-up next weekend.

School Mass –February 22nd: St Mary's Primary School and St Brendan's Primary School will celebrate the Beginning of

the Year School Mass at St Brendan's Church, Dunnstown on Ash Wednesday at 9.15 am.

Bungaree Leadership Team Meeting: The first meeting for 2023 will be held on February 7th 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
4/5 February 2023	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 58: 7-10; I Cor 2:1-5		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Tania Hoffman	Mark & Sue Conlan	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
11/12 February 2023	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	Shelley Ryan		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Mark Conlan	Rosemary & Michael Canavan	
18/19 February 2023	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lev 19:1-2; 1 Cor 3: 16-23		
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	Jane Bosworth	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month

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 / 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					



Recent Deaths: Robert Leiter (Austria, father of Edith Paarhammer), James Leonard, Bernard (Bernie) O'Neil

Anniversaries: Peter Ross, Ray Frawley, Frank Frawley, Greg Arnel, Margaret Maloney, Fr James Ryan, Archie Campbell, John Ryan, Anthony Jarvis, Gerard Winter, Ron Spedding, Olive Andrews and Nina Cassar

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

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).

Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania 2023: The Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania will be held in Fiji from February 5-10, 2023. People of the diocese are invited to pray for blessings on this assembly <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/federation-of-catholic-bishops-conferences-of-oceania/>

Word of God Sunday, February 5th

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 this weekend. With Pope Francis we express our appreciation

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.

At Masses this Sunday, the following parishioners will be commissioned as readers at our Masses

- **Ballan** -Jane Bosworth, Rosemary Canavan, Mark Conlan, Julie Dargan, Anne Eskdale, Catherine Green, Margaret Green, Tania Hoffman, Bert Jarvis, Nola Kersley, Lloyd Lamb, Marie Shanahan, Winnie Zammit.
- **Gordon** -Joan Bourke, Beth Calleja, Kate Carey, Eddie Davis, Maria Donegan, Monica Eastwood, Pam Lynch, Helen Ryan, Kerryn Taylor, Therese Winter.
- **Springbank** - Sue Daly, Liz O'Loughlin, Brendan Maher, Wendy Roche, Donna Simpson, Dan Toohey.

This will take place after the homily before the Creed.

Fr Justin.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 FEBRUARY 2023

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

When the people of Israel returned from exile it was a time of great hope and rejoicing. God's promises had proved true and their persistence in faith had been rewarded. Now was the time to rebuild and people set about re-establishing their lives, homes and businesses. During the exile, they had been united in their suffering but now there was the danger of people looking after themselves at the cost of others. Isaiah was concerned to nip this in the bud showing that the best foundation on which to rebuild was their concern for others, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. In this way, their lives would be a shining example. In the gospel, Jesus calls each of us to examine the quality of our care for our brothers and sisters. It is by means of our practical concern that we can be salt for the earth and light for our world.

Paul was concerned that the faith of some of the Corinthian Christians was not built on a firm foundation. They had been overly impressed by the quality of the preaching and rhetoric of the various preachers who had worked among them. He knew that while their response was understandable, it was nonetheless misguided. At the end of the day, he knew that rhetoric and philosophy would never build a foundation that could challenge the one built on the self-giving love of Jesus. With their eyes fixed on the crucified one, they could learn true wisdom and the meaning of love.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or **Alleluia!**)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. **R.**
2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R.**
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

■ The word of the Lord.