

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 11/12 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: \$408.99	Parish: \$411.00
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Christmas Dues: \$50.00

Welcome to Fr Kevin Maloney as he celebrates the 6.30pm Vigil Mass at Springbank this weekend.

Ballan Mass: No Mass this Thursday. Instead, the regular Prayer Service will proceed on 16 February at 10.30 am.

Ash Wednesday Masses – February 22:

9.15am St Brigid's Ballan

10.30am St Patrick's Gordon

6.30pm St Michael's Springbank

Lenten Biblical formation with Rosemary Canavan

Thursdays after 10.30am Mass in Ballan on March 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Participants will have the opportunity to explore with Rosemary for the Gospel used at Masses on the following Sunday. All are welcome.

News from the Parish Primary Schools: Both schools have welcomed new students and staff with 97 students enrolled at St Brigid's and 75 enrolled at St Patrick's. The opening school Mass was celebrated at Ballan on Friday with the Gordon opening Mass to be celebrated on Tuesday February 28th at 10.00am.



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: \$786.00	Parish: \$NA
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Ash Wednesday Mass – February 22:

Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's Church Bungaree on Wednesday at 11 am (not at 9.30 am).

School Mass – February 22: 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.

School Enrolments: Enrolments are now open at St. Brendan's, Dunnstown and St. Mary's, Clarkes Hill. Please contact the schools for a personalised tour or attend our opening mornings.

St. Brendan's Primary School-Monday the 27th of February from 9am- 1pm

St. Mary's Primary School-Thursday the 2nd of March from 9 am - 1pm.

All are welcome!

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
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		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
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 – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jane Bosworth	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	
25/26 February 2023	1st Sunday of Lent	Gen 2:7-9, 3: 1-7; Rom 5:12, 17-19	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Julie Moran		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Ballan – 6.30 pm (new time)	Margaret Green	Ciaran, Janine & Connor Donohoe	Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		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: Doreen Blood, Jock Hayes

Anniversaries: Kathleen Ryan, Patricia (Trish) Ford, Kevin Johnson, James Baynes, Eileen Haintz, Thomas Mullane, Reg Hayes, John Trounce, John Ronan, Terry O'Keefe, Peter Bretherton, Frank Leonard, Patrick Mahar.

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: Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. **Pope's intention for February** - For parishes: *We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.*

World Day of the Sick-February 11: The Catholic Church's World Day of the Sick is held on February 11, the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, and is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities. Pope Francis' message to mark the World Day of the Sick can be accessed at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-of-the-sick-february-11-2023/> Limited copies of the Pope's Message are available.

2023 Columban Art Calendar: This year's Columban Calendar is available for pickup from all churches. Extra calendars are available for parishioners who would like a calendar but did not place an order. Cost \$10.00 per calendar. Special thanks to Michael Ryan who facilitated our order for this year. All donations will be forwarded to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Birthday Greetings: Congratulations to Johnny Fitzgerald who turns 90 this week. We wish him a wonderful birthday celebration with family and friends. May it be a day filled with happiness and joy.

Project Compassion: During this Lenten Season we are inviting volunteers to act as Caritas Ambassadors/representatives to manage Project Compassion for their parish communities. Project Commission resources including donation boxes and envelopes are available from the Parish Office. Please contact the Parish Secretary at [bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au/](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au/](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ring 0492 903 409. On **Sunday, February 19th**, Bishop Paul will be launching Project Compassion 2023, "For All Future Generations" at St Patrick's Cathedral during the 5.00 pm Mass.

Caritas Middle East Emergency Appeal:

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Our partner Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies on the ground are coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society is lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society. The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinion.

If you know someone who would like to contact the St Vincent de Paul Society for assistance, contact details are:

The Ballarat Assistance Centre located at 6 Dawson Street South, Ballarat Central is open on
Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00am to 12noon.

The Wendouree Assistance Centre located at 15 Violet Grove, Wendouree is open on
Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:30am to 11:30am.

For those who seek assistance but are unable to visit either Centre, call the **St Vincent de Paul Vinnies Call Centre tel: 5334 2844** and leave a message, stating name, address & telephone number, for a return call from a volunteer of St Vincent de Paul.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God’s judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God’s part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul’s time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God’s law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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The Holy See

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS XXXI WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

11 February 2023

“Take care of him”

Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing

Dear brothers and sisters!

Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.

When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see *how* we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”. For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks these words that represent one of the high points of God’s Revelation: “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak [...] I will feed them with justice” (34:15-16).

Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God’s people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord’s attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.

The Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* encourages us to read anew the parable of the Good Samaritan, which I chose in order to illustrate how we can move from the “dark clouds” of a closed world to “envisaging and engendering an open world” (cf. [No. 56](#)). There is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today’s world. In particular, the fact that the man, beaten and robbed, is *abandoned* on the side of the road represents the condition in which all too many of our brothers and sisters are left at a time when they most need help. It is no longer easy to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence. In fact, increasing levels of inequality and the prevailing interests of the few now affect every human environment to the extent that it is difficult to consider any experience as having solely “natural” causes. All suffering takes place in the context of a “culture” and its various contradictions.

Here it is especially important to recognize the condition of loneliness and abandonment. This kind of cruelty can be overcome more easily than any other injustice, because – as the parable tells us – it only takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion within us, in order to eliminate it. Two travellers, considered pious and religious, see the wounded man, yet fail to stop. The third passer-by, however, a Samaritan, a scorned foreigner, is moved with compassion and takes care of that stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it, he makes a difference, he makes the world more fraternal.

Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true “field hospital”, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

The World Day of the Sick calls for prayer and closeness towards those who suffer. Yet it also aims to raise the awareness of God’s people, healthcare institutions and civil society with regard to a new way of moving forward together. The above-quoted prophecy of Ezekiel judges harshly the priorities of those who wield economic, cultural, and political power over others: “You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured,

you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them” (34:3-4). God’s word is always illuminating and timely; not only in what it denounces, but also in what it proposes. Indeed, the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity, which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organized care. The elements of the inn, the innkeeper, the money and the promise to remain informed of the situation (cf. *Lk* 10:34-35) all point to the commitment of healthcare and social workers, family members and volunteers, through whom good stands up in the face of evil every day, in every part of the world.

These past years of the pandemic have increased our sense of gratitude for those who work each day in the fields of healthcare and research. Yet it is not enough to emerge from such an immense collective tragedy simply by honouring heroes. Covid-19 has strained the great networks of expertise and solidarity, and has exposed the structural limits of existing public welfare systems. Gratitude, then, needs to be matched by actively seeking, in every country, strategies and resources in order to guarantee each person’s fundamental right to basic and decent healthcare.

The Samaritan calls the innkeeper to “take care of him” (*Lk* 10:35). Jesus addresses the same call to each of us. He exhorts us to “go and do likewise” (*Lk* 10:37). As I noted in *Fratelli Tutti*, “The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good” (*No.* 67). Indeed, “we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering” (*No.* 68).

On 11 February 2023, let us turn our thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God’s people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind.

To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2023

FRANCIS

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