

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A): 25/26 March 2023

Our Parish acknowledges this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

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 (Wednesday/Thursday 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*

Parish Schools	St. Brigid's Primary School St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth: ☎ 5368 1015 Principal: Mr Paul McDowell ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last week

Presbytery: \$358.80	Parish: \$165.00
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Ballan Mass:

Fr Justin will celebrate mass with the **Sacrament of Anointing** at St Brigid's this Thursday, March 30th at 10.30 am. The Lenten Biblical formation with Rosemary will be held after mass, followed by morning-tea. All are welcome.

Sacramental Program:

Children's Reconciliation will be held at St Patrick's Church on Tuesday, April 4th at 7pm, and at St Brigid's Church on April 5th at 5 pm

Mass of the Oils: The Parish is inviting interested parishioners to represent the parish at the Mass of the Oils on April 3rd. Please advise the Parish Office - 0492 903 409, if you plan to attend; or if you would like to attend but need a lift to Ballarat.

Also, the Diocese is accepting expressions of interest in the following ministries – ushers, readers of the liturgy, oil bearers, or collection of oils. If you would like to participate, email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au by Monday, March 27th.

Ballan Hostel: Prayer Service, Thursday, April 13th at 10.30 am.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH ~ BUNGAREE

We are child safe Parishes, committed to safeguarding children, young people & vulnerable adults.

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 (Tuesday 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
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Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery: \$771.00	Parish: \$785.00
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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. All welcome!

Anointing Mass: Fr Sajan will celebrate an anointing mass on Monday, April 3rd at 9.30 am at St Michael's Church, Bungaree. All are welcome.

Mass of the Oils: Would you like to attend the Mass of the Oils on April 3rd at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral? Please contact Dorothy Sheehan on 0438 015 602, if you are interested in attending. If you would like to attend but need a lift, contact Dorothy or the Parish Office on 0492 903 409. Also, the Diocese is accepting expressions of interest in the following ministries – ushers, readers of the liturgy, oil bearers, or collection of oils. If you would like to participate, email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au by Monday, March 27th.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
25/26 March 2023	5th Sunday of Lent Ezek 37: 12-14; Rom 8: 8-11		
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Dom Prendergast		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 6.30 pm (new time)	Julie Dargan	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
1/2 April 2023	Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord Isa 50: 4-7; Phil 2: 6-11		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Eskdale Family	
8/9 April 2023	Easter Sunday Rom 6: 3-11, Mt 28: 1-10		
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Bungaree – 8 pm	To be Advised		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month
Dunnstown – 9 am	To be Advised		
Ballan – 10.30 am	Rosemary Canavan	Mark and Sue Conlan	

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					



Recent Deaths: Helen Poole (nee Bennett), Sr Sheila (Gregory) Belleville RSM, Vincent Ross, Theresa West.

Anniversaries: Pat Kennedy, Leo Davies, Lillian, Kevin and Jack Meiklejohn, Jack Papworth, Leigh Conroy, Emmanuel Muscat, Martin Spain, Peter Torpy, Maurice Frawley, Lars Drendel, Nora Frawley, Sr. Presentation Marnell, Greg Slater.

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, John Healy and Elaine Conlan.

Lenten Biblical formation with Rosemary Canavan: Thursdays after 10.30am Mass in Ballan on 30th March. Participants will have the opportunity to explore with Rosemary for the Gospel used at Masses on the following Sunday. All welcome.

Celebrating St Patrick's Day: Thank you to all who joined the Friday March 17th celebrations for the Feast of our Parish patron St Patrick. The 11.30am Mass at Gordon followed by lunch at the Wallace Hotel was enjoyed by many from our own parish of Ballan, Gordon and Springbank as well as parishioners from our faith neighbours in the Bungaree, Creswick and Daylesford parishes.

Reconciliation (Sacrament of Penance, First Rite):

In the Parish of Bungaree, Fr Sajan holds reconciliation every Saturday morning after 9.30 am mass at St Michael's Church, Bungaree. In the Parish of Gordon, reconciliation may be held on Thursday morning, before or after the 10.30 am mass at St Brigid's Church, Ballan; however you must confirm your intention to hold reconciliation with Fr Justin by email at [justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au/](mailto:justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au) before the Thursday of that week. Reconciliation is available at St Patrick's Cathedral before Mass on Fridays at 11.00am and after Mass on Saturdays at 10.30am.

Mass of the Oils 2023 - Monday April 3: The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30pm. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2023, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Supper will follow.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023: Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023. Practice times are Sunday, March 19, Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Justice for Refugees - Palm Sunday: Meet at View Point Lake Wendouree at 2pm. Speakers Robyn Burgess Refugee Nurse at Ballarat Community Health Refugees with lived experience. For those who wish to walk it will finish in front of Loreto College at the viewing area for the rowing. Organised by: Rural Australian for Refugees Ballarat and Amnesty Ballarat.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

DAY	CEREMONY	BUNGAREE	GORDON
Holy Thursday April 6th	Mass	6.30 pm St Michael's Bungaree	5.30 pm St Patrick's Gordon
Good Friday April 7th	Stations of the Cross		10.30 am St Brigid's Ballan
Good Friday April 7th	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3 pm St Michael's Springbank	
Holy Saturday April 8 th	Celebration of Easter Vigil	6.30 pm St Peter's Clarks Hill	6.30 pm St Michael's Springbank
		8 pm St Michael's Bungaree	
Easter Sunday April 9 th	Mass	9 am St Brendan's Dunnstown	10.30 am St Brigid's Ballan



and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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GOD’S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today’s readings is the encouragement provided by God’s pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God’s pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus’ resurrection.

The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, ‘Unbind him, let him go free,’ so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not

belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; / whoever believes in me will not die for ever. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,