

# The Ascension of the Lord (Year A): 20/21 May 2023

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

## 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: Principal: Mr Paul McDowell	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	<a href="http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au">www.sballan.catholic.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au">www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au</a>
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### Collections last week

Presbytery: \$715.15	Parish: \$ 351.00
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**Mass at Ballan:** Mass this Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.

### Confirmation Preparation:

Welcome to the children and their families preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. **Dismissal mass at Gordon at 8.45am this Sunday.** The children will be dismissed from the mass and led by Mrs Jerram led through part of the

preparation in our Family based, Parish Coordinated and Catholic school supported sacrament program. Confirmation will be celebrated at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Ballan on the Feast of Pentecost, Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Paul Bird.

### Mass Counts from weekend May 6-7 to May 27-28:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count has commenced. Counting forms have been placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed forms will be collected after the weekend mass.



## 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 (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	<a href="http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au">www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au">www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au</a>
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### Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery: \$NA	Parish: \$NA
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### Thanks from Aileen Hanrahan:

Thank you for the lovely bunch of flowers. I will miss you all (but will still be back from time to time). Thanks for your support, Aileen.  
(P.S. Thanks to Nola Jeffrey and Frank Hanrahan for arranging).

### Mass Counts from weekend May 6-7 to May 27-28:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count has commenced. Counting forms have been placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed form/s must be returned to the Parish Office by the end of the month.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
<b>20/21 May 2023</b>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>Acts 1: 1-11; Eph 1: 17-23</b>	
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	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims and Family	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
<b>27/28 May 2023</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13</b>	
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Catherine Green	Edith & Tony Paarhammer	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Jill Prendergast	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
<b>3/4 June 2023</b>	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Ex 34: 4-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13: 11-13</b>	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Sue & Mark Conlan	Holy Hour – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month

## LITURGIES / WEEKLY MASSES

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Sat 6pm* 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Ballan* Clarkes Hill	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan		Ballan
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 5 pm ~ 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					

Icon with the Ascension of Christ; Photo credit: Campion Hall, University of Oxford.

**Anniversaries:** James McDermott, Bryan Frawley, Fr Bill Moroney, Jack Mahar, Iala Wise, Albert Henry Jarvis, Keith Holmes, Nell Wise, Peter Davies, Jack Murphy, Stan Maher.

**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.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer: May 21-28, 2023:

The theme for the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "Do good; seek justice."

(Isaiah 1:17). The Australian context for this theme is, "Learn to do good - Seek justice - Rescue the oppressed - Defend the orphan, plead for the widow". The focus of this week Christian Unity is an understanding of the history of Christianity in Australia, and how reconciliation initiatives seek to heal divisions caused by injustices. Further information and resources are available at <https://www.ncca.org.au/about-faith-unity>

**Baptisms:** We pray for Nellie Jane Dickson, daughter of William and Dana; Eddie Miles Winter, son of Robert and Hayley; and Amelia Louise Winter, daughter of Jay and Kate; will be baptised this Sunday at St Patrick's, Gordon. We welcome them into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

### Catholic Education Week 2023:

Catholic Education Week 2023 will be celebrated from May 21-26, 2023. The theme for this year is "Grace is the gift of God's presence in our lives". *We give thanks to God for our diocesan schools. Send your spirit upon all involved in catholic education. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.*

More information is available at <https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/news/catholic-education-week/>

### Laudato Si' Week: May 21-28, 2023: Interested in learning and doing more?

The theme for the 2023 *Laudato Si'* Week is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity". This annual celebration allows us to commemorate the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' historic encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: "On the care of Creation".

The Vatican urges parishes to view the documentary **The Letter: a message for our Earth** which was released in October 2022. Watch together as a parish community or view at home at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

Discuss with Fr Justin or Fr Sajan whether your parish would like to join the **Laudato Si' Platform** by registering as an Earthcare Parish at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-parishes/> For more information, contact Jillian Hogbin, ph 5337 7117 or email [caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

This year's St Vincent de Paul Society's annual **Winter Appeal** will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance. Donations can be made at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal> on 13 18 12 and at all Vinnies Shops. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

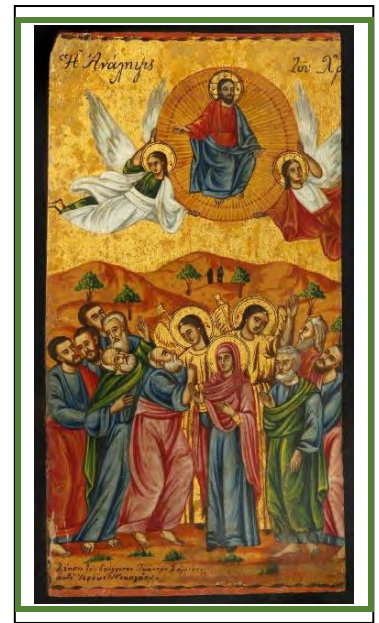
Your generosity will provide shelter, food, clothing and long-term support to older women in crises – our mothers, grandmothers and aunts - and help rebuild their lives.

### The Problem:

Right now, in Australia, we're experiencing a range of crises: the escalating cost of living, a shortage in affordable housing, gender inequality which negatively impacts women's superannuation savings, and a rise in elder abuse, a form of family violence.

For many older women who are relying on their pension as their only income, they're at a severe disadvantage when competing against double income earners in the rental market. Women over 55 are experiencing homelessness at alarming rates.

Donate now and you'll help make sure older women in crisis have a safe place to sleep, food, clothing and a chance to rebuild their lives.



hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19, 20

**Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 28:16-20

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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### PRESENT IN ALL CREATION

The resurrection of Jesus was clearly a moment of healing victory and the basis of hope for the early Church. While the victory over sin and death had been won a whole new set of questions arose for the first generation of Christians. Where do we go now? What does the Risen Lord ask of us? How will the Lord continue to be present among us? The early Christians reflected on Jesus' Ascension and used this moment of transition to address these questions for themselves and to instruct future generations of Christians.

Much had already been achieved but the time had come for the Risen Lord to entrust the next stage of the mission into the hands of the disciples. Having been schooled for forty days by the Risen Lord they were now entrusted with the mission of bringing the message of Jesus to the world around them. While they would not have looked forward to the day when Jesus would pass from their midst, they were nonetheless reminded that while the quality of his presence had changed, he would never leave them.

While the letter to the Ephesians does not speak explicitly of the Ascension it does reflect on how the Pauline communities saw this change in Jesus' presence among them. Christians are encouraged to see that by being exalted to God's right-hand Jesus is now able to be present throughout all of creation, no longer limited by space and time. They are called to see that he is not absent but is now even more powerfully present.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

### FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## ■ The word of the Lord.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)**

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

### SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what