

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 9/10 September 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; Out-of-hours: 0448 220 685  
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	\$447.95	Parish:	\$850.00
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$8737.3			

Annual Appeal for our Retired and Sick Priests - **\$465.00**

**Thank You:** We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of all parishioners for their donations.

**Welcome:** We welcome Fr Sajan who will celebrate the 10.30am mass at Ballan this Sunday.

### Mid-week 10.30am Masses:

Daylesford – Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
Ballan – Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Creswick – Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

**Sacramental Program 2023 Update:** The Sacramental Program for this year has now been completed. Masses to

celebrate the baptism, confirmation and eucharist for those children enrolled in the RCIC who have not yet completed the program, will continue to be held during the latter months of this year.

**Planned Giving Program - July 2022 to June 2023 Update**  
Fr Justin has written to all members of the Planned Giving program who financially contributed to last year's program by email or by mail thanking them for their commitment to the Parish. A summary of the Parish's finances 2022/2023 was also included with his letter. Please contact the Parish Office if you have not yet received his letter by Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### Forthcoming Events:

Cemetery Mass – Sunday, 11 am on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Gordon Cemetery.



## 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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### Parish Leadership Team Meeting:

The Parish Leadership Team met last Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Items discussed included the future use of the St Brendan's school site. Other items included a review of the 2023 Sacramental Program to identify best

practices, parish finances and projected budgetary constraints, and the maintenance of parish properties and church grounds.

### Forthcoming Events:

Cemetery Mass – Sunday, 9.30 am on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Pootilla Cemetery.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
<b>9/10 September 2023</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Ezek 33: 7-9; Rom 13: 8-10</b>	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To Be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Michael Ryan	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
<b>16/17 September 2023</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Sir 27: 30-28:7; Rom 14: 7-9</b>	
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	Bert Jarvis	Bridget Sims Family	
<b>23/24 September 2023</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Isa 55: 6-9; Phil 1: 20-24, 27</b>	
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Julie Dargan	Tont & Edith Paarhammer	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Margie Moran	Helen Mahar	Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		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					

**Anniversaries:** Evelyn Nash, Mary O'Loughlin, Noel Kelly, Katherine Maher, Paul Mahar, George Richardson, Gerald Clifford, William Bourke, Kath Mulcahy, Alma Eastwood, Kevin Reddie, Peg Shanahan, Peter Duffy, Eileen Pendergast, John William Meiklejohn, Elspeth Eastwood.

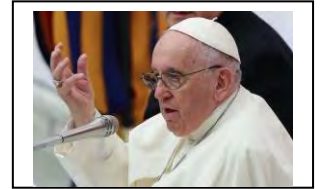
**We offer our prayers for the sick:** Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Moira Myers, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, Chaiel Balcombe Jackson, John Healy, Elaine Conlan, Belinda Riley, Paul Ronan.

### 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. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

**Pope's intention for September – For people living on the margins:** *We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance. Lord, hear us.*

Pope Francis, at the Vatican, May 21, 2022 (Photo by Evandro Inetti/ZUMA Press Wire /MaxPPP) Download <https://international.la-croix.com/>



### Safeguarding Sunday - TODAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at [www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023](http://www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023)

### Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4, 2023

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

### Synod on Synodality: Room for everyone in our Church

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Yarra Theological Union and Garratt Publishing present "Synod on Synodality: Room for everyone in our Church" to be held on **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm via zoom**. Leading the discussion is one of the ACBC's representatives at the Synod, Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst. The convocation will be recorded and made available the week following the event. You must be registered to receive the link to the video. For more details and to register, scan or click the QR code. This a free event.



**Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter:** ISMAPNG would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future. Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

### Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". A credit card facility is available and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. *Caring for those who care for us – the Church community's responsibility.*

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ,  
to reconcile the world to himself; / and  
the Good News of reconciliation he has  
entrusted to us. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have  
won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does  
something wrong, go and have it out with him  
alone, between your two selves. If he listens to  
you, you have won back your brother. If he does  
not listen, take one or two others along with  
you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is  
required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses  
to listen to these, report it to the community;  
and if he refuses to listen to the community,  
treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on  
earth shall be considered bound in heaven;  
whatever you loose on earth shall be considered  
loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you  
on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be  
granted to you by my Father in heaven. For  
where two or three meet in my name, I shall be  
there with them.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

10 SEPTEMBER 2023

## CONCERN FOR OTHERS

From time to time, we hear family counsellors  
speaking of the need for 'tough love', the sort  
of love that expresses itself by dealing head-on  
with the problems we are tempted to ignore.  
Often, we would do anything to avoid the  
risk of upsetting the other person. Of course,  
we all know that the problems are there but  
how do you go about confronting them in a  
constructive way? The readings for today give  
us some useful and powerful orientations.

As the people of Israel set up sentries to warn  
of the impending invasion by the Babylonians,  
Ezekiel was reminded of his own moral  
obligations as a sentry. His role was to speak  
the hard words of warning that would cause  
his contemporaries to rethink their values and  
get their inner house in order.

Matthew's own community had a process  
for naming issues and correcting them  
that respects both the individual and the  
community. If there is a problem in the  
community, its resolution needs to start on an  
individual level. Later, if it is necessary, the  
problem can be dealt with at the group level.

Paul highlights the obligation we have to each  
other in mutual love. Whether we warn each  
other as Ezekiel was called to do or correct  
someone, as was necessary in Matthew's  
community, it must come from our concern  
and love for the person. As he knows all too  
well it is only love that will not cause our  
brother or sister harm.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will  
hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as  
follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as  
sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a  
word from my mouth, warn them in my name.  
If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you  
are to die, and you do not speak to warn the  
wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall  
die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible  
for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked  
man to renounce his ways and repent, and he  
does not repent, then he shall die for his sin,  
but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

**R. O that today you would listen to his  
voice!**

**Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail  
the rock who saves us. / Let us come before  
him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the  
Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us  
kneel before the God who made us / for he is  
our God and we / the people who belong to his  
pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his  
voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at  
Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the  
desert / when your fathers put me to the test; /  
when they tried me, though they saw my  
work.' **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of  
mutual love. If you love your fellow men you  
have carried out your obligations. All the  
commandments: You shall not commit adultery,  
you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall  
not covet, and so on, are summed up in this  
single command: You must love your neighbour  
as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot  
hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer  
to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.