

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 16/17 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	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last week

Presbytery	\$319.65	Parish:	\$143.00
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$8880.30			

Annual Appeal for our Retired and Sick Priests - \$370.00

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

Mid-week Masses:

Wednesday Sept 20th 11.00am Hepburn House
(Daylesford), COVID test required.
Thursday Sept 21st 10.30am Ballan
Friday Sept 22nd 10.30am Creswick

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.

Australian Catholics: Spring 2023 edition is now available. Copies have been placed in all churches.

Forthcoming Events:

Cemetery Mass – Sunday, 11 am on **November 19th** 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	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery:	\$875.00	Parish:	\$755.00
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Thank You: We are very grateful to all our parishioners and visitors to our parish for their contributions to these collections.

Interested in Becoming a Liturgy Reader?

The Parish is updating the liturgy rosters for the next three months. If you attend St Michael's Bungaree and/or St Brendan's Dunnstown, and are interested in becoming more actively involved in weekend masses, please register your interest by completing the Ministry Roster Form

placed at the back of the churches. Alternatively, speak to Fr Sajan or contact the Parish Office. Contact details: tel: 5334 0450, 0492 903 409 or email bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au/ Thank you.

Forthcoming Events:

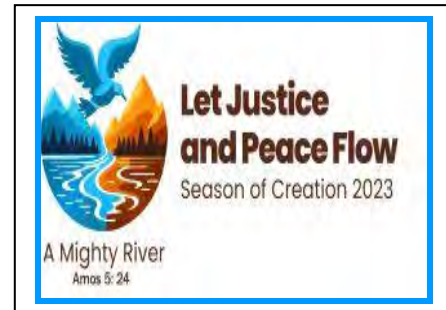
Cemetery Mass – Sunday, 9.30 am on **November 12th** at the Pootilla Cemetery.

Celebrating the End of an Era – Saturday, 25th November at St Brendan's School, Dunnstown from 2 pm onwards. More details to follow. Save the date!

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
16/17 September 2023	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sir 27: 30-28:7; Rom 14: 7-9	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Bridget Sims Family	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
23/24 September 2023	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 55: 6-9; Phil 1: 20-24, 27	
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Julie Dargan	Tont & Edith Paarhammer	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Margie Moran	Helen Mahar	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
30 Sept/1 October 2023	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ezek 18: 25-28; Phil 2: 1-11	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		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	Bridget Sims & Family	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 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					



Recent Deaths: Eileen McManus (formerly of the Beaufort House of Prayer), Mario Perovich (Ballarat North)

Anniversaries: Emily Green, James Cummins, Jack Nunn, George Azzotardi, Jimmy Winter, William Black, Michael Williams, Wayne Torpy, Genevffa Micallef, Carmen Gatt, Fred Bendeich, Primo Bettolatti, Eileen Davis, Pat Toohey, Jeanette Pearse, Danny Frawley, Corey Fletcher, Eileen McDermott, Bill O’Donohue, Kathleen Sheehan, John (Jack) Frawley and Winifred Walsh.

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

Baptisms and RCIC: We pray for Scarlett Elaine Jerram, daughter of Jake and Bethany, who will be baptised this Sunday at St Patrick’s Church, Gordon. We also pray for Ari and Remi Jeandet, children of Kirsten and Antonin, who are completing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist) this Sunday at St Brigid’s Church, Ballan. We welcome them into our faith community.

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. <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>



Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation- September 28

A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. The final session will be held on September 28 from 3.30pm - 4.45pm online via zoom. More information and registration details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil

Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of September 30 – October 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the Catholic community’s prayers as they prepare for their important task. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Register your vigil at <https://together2023.net/>. Prayer service suggestions available at <https://together2023.net/info-page/prayers-elsewhere-in-the-world-suggested-service-order/>

In the footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage: October 17-28, 2023



This Pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop’s life and ministry. The pilgrimage, operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place, is led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister of Saint Joseph and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude in North Sydney on October 28. Pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. For more information and to register scan or click on the QR code.

Catholic Mission Immersion to Timor-Leste - November 4-12, 2023

Catholic Mission invites adults to participate in this engaging immersion where you will learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste from November 4-12, 2023. The immersion provides a special opportunity to return with newfound friends, a broader vision of God's Family, and a revitalised understanding of Jesus' Mission. Be prepared to be changed and challenged. For more information and to register scan or click on the QR code.





‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said, “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me,” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

A well-balanced life is something worth striving for, but human nature being what it is, balance is not always easily achieved. Today the readings deal with the question of balance and consistency regarding how we expect God to treat us and the ways we deal with each other. Resentment, vengeance, and anger can all find their place in the human heart and Ecclesiasticus advises that a more tolerant approach is more beneficial. If we cannot forgive each other, how can anyone expect God to forgive our failings?

Matthew approaches the question from the other direction. Rather than looking at what we will receive from the Lord, the striking parable of the two debtors teaches us to look at what we have already received. Since God has already looked kindly and mercifully on us this should lead to a corresponding degree of forbearance with one another.

While it is not stated in today’s reading from Romans, Paul is dealing with a community where there was some tension regarding eating meat left over from temple sacrifices. For the more liberal members of the community eating this meat was not a problem. Others in the community were scandalised and thought it was idolatry. Paul’s approach is to remind both groups that whatever we do influences our brothers and sisters. As Christians, the way to find a sense of balance is to remember that we are called to live for the Lord. Sometimes this calls us to die to ourselves to preserve peace and unity. Christ gave his life for us all, should we not do the same for each other?

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour’s faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

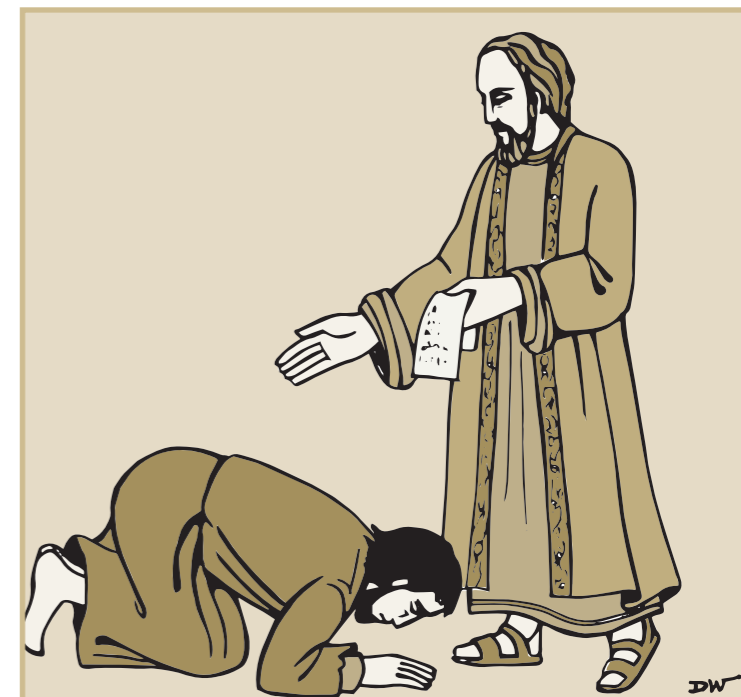
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.’