

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 23/24 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	\$368.15	Parish:	\$536.30
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$9414.60			

Annual Appeal for our Retired and Sick Priests - \$70.00

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

Mid-week Masses:

Wednesday	Sept 27 th	No Mass (Fr Justin is away)
Thursday	Sept 28 th	10.30 am Ballan
Friday	Sept 29 th	10.30 am 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:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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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:

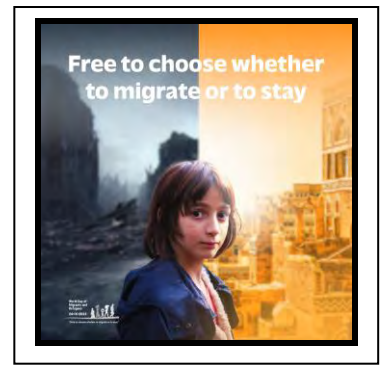
Cemetery Mass – Sunday, 9.30 am on **November 12th** at the Pootilla Cemetery.

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
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	Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Margie Moran	Helen Mahar	Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
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 – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Bridget Sims & Family	
7/8 October 2023	2th Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Rosemary Canavan	Mark & Sue Conlan	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: Glenda Gleeson (Ballan), Denis Farnes (Ballarat)

Anniversaries: Bill Moroney, Steven Molloy, Mark Leonard, Kevin Jeffrey, Jean Leonard, Hilda Blakemore, Gerard Williams, Phillip Camelleri, Josephine Catania, Muriel Snaith, Vera Winter, Kevin O’Brien, Bob Kick, Margarat Mahar, Catherine Graham, Noreen Torney, RSM and Mary ‘Mollie’ Sullivan.

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.

109th World Day of Migrants & Refugees: Sunday, September 24, 2023

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen **“Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay”**. Pope Francis’ opening paragraph reads:

The migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return. As a contribution to this effort, I have chosen to devote the Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one’s native land.

To read his message in full, go to: <https://migrants-refugees.va/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MESSAGE-OF-HIS-HOLINESS-POPE-FRANCIS.pdf>

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation- September 28:

Join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. The final session will be held on September 28 from 3.30pm - 4.45pm online via zoom. Registration details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

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 climate change. For more info go to:



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



Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil

Catholic around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil next weekend, September 30 – October 1. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the community’s prayers as they prepare for their important task. 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/>



2024 Study Tour: Journey with Paul

Dr Rosemary Canavan from CTC is leading a Study Tour in 2024, “Journey with Paul: Türkiye – Greece”. There will be online information sessions by zoom on 7th and 21st October for anyone interested in attending. Click or scan the QR code for more information.

Aid to the Church in Need Pakistan Appeal

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur’an. To learn more scan or click on the QR code, or go to: <https://aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal>



to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

GOD’S WAYS ARE NOT OURS

One of the misconceptions that Christians often have about the Old Testament is that God is portrayed as harsh and unforgiving. We are all too used to contrasting the Old Testament view of God and the loving Father of Jesus that emerges in his teaching and ministry. It is important to remember that it was the Hebrew Scriptures that shaped Jesus’ own understanding of God as a loving father.

The first reading from Isaiah clearly challenges misconceptions we might have that the God of Israel is not merciful. Isaiah encourages the wicked to change their ways precisely because God’s ways are not ours. While we might tend to punish, God’s mercy reveals a sovereignty that is often beyond our grasp and understanding. Jesus’ parable of the owner of the vineyard who deals with all the workers in an even-handed and generous manner is, or can be, just as challenging for us to comprehend. Sinners who repent, and those who have always been devout, will all receive the same reward. Indeed, God’s ways are far from those of our world.

Paul finds himself in a quandary. He knows that God is a loving God, and his ultimate desire is to be with God. On the other hand, he knows how his fledgling community in Philippi needs his presence and support. Caught between the good of caring for the Philippian community and that of wanting to finish his journey to be with the Lord, he wrestles and struggles with what is best. In the end, the problem is resolved because he knows his reward lies before him. In the meantime, there is still much work to be done.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise your name for ever. / The Lord is great, highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts, O Lord, / to listen to the words of your Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak