

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 18/19 November 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
Leadership Team: Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke &
Shane Carey (Gordon), Nola Kersley & Mark Conlan (Ballan)

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Wed/Thurs 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	Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth: ☎ 5368 1015	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
	St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Mr Paul McDowell ☎ 5368 9495	www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections last week

Presbytery	\$440.40	Parish:	\$467.00
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$16359.90			

Welcome: We welcome Fr Wally Tudor who will celebrate mass at the Gordon Cemetery this Sunday.

Ballan Mid-Week Mass: Mass will be held this Thursday, November 23rd, at 10.30 am.

Gordon Cemetery Mass November 19th

Sunday's mass on November 19th will be held at **11am** at the Gordon Cemetery.

In case of inclement weather, the mass will be held at St Patrick's Church, Gordon. Some chairs will be supplied, but attendees are requested to bring a chair/mat.

Parish Survey Form:

The Parish Leadership Team would like your feedback. A one-page survey form can be picked up at all churches or will be forwarded to you by email. The completed form can be emailed to the Parish Office, placed in the box at the church foyer/gathering space for collection, handed directly to Fr Justin or mailed to the Parish Office c/- Parish of Gordon, Gordon Post Office 3345.



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
Leadership Team: Damien Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown) Dom Prendergast & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill). Ex-Officio Member: 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	Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
	St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604	www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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Pootilla Cemetery Mass:

We thank everyone responsible for ensuring that last Sunday's memorial mass on 12th November was such a successful celebration, particularly Damian Ryan, Maurice Maher and Marty Forbes. Special thanks to Fr Sajan.

Anointing Mass – St Peter's, Clarkes Hill on Saturday, November 25th at 6.30 pm.

Celebrating the End of an Era – Saturday, 25th November
at St Brendan's School, Dunnstown from 2 pm onwards.

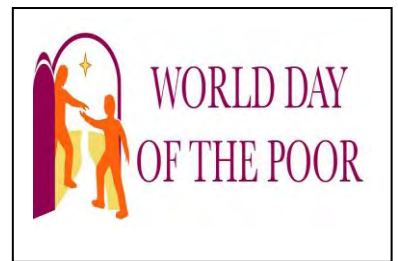
Fun activities and games, afternoon tea followed by official proceedings. All are welcome to attend.

The 'Book of the Names of the Dead': If you wish to include the names of parishioners who have recently died, Fr Sajan will be bringing the 'Book of the Names of the Dead' to all Saturday/Sunday masses held during November. If you wish to update the death anniversaries listed in the Combined Newsletter, please email the Parish Secretary at: bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
18/19 November 2023	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thess 5: 1-6		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
GORDON CEMETERY – 11 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 9am (this week only)	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims Family	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
25/26 November 2023	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Ezek 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28		
Ballan – 6 pm	Michael Ryan	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Julie Moran	Jill Prendergast	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am* (new time)	To be Advised		
2/3 December 2023	1st Sunday of Advent Isa 63:16-17; 64: 1, 3-8		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	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, 9am *	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: Geraldine Nihill, James Britt, Thomas Bawden, Graeme Mason, Matthew

Steenhuis, Kath O'Hehir, Vincent Maher, Margaret Tynan, Barry Flynn, Mary Maher, Carmel Maher, Richard Butler, Maudie Smallman, Joe Fitzpatrick, Mary Ryan, Jack McEldrew, Steven Tingate, Katherin Mary Clarke, Louise Mary Jarvis, Frank Bartaska, Michael Dyer, Mary Canty.

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, Lorraine Tipple.

World Day of the Poor – Sunday, November 19th

The call to serve the poor has been greatly emphasised under the papacy of Pope Francis, who established the World Day of the Poor in 2017. The Holy Father's message for 2023 is "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7). The Church is encouraged to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world." Read the Pope's message on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Baptism: We pray for Thomas Bodnar, son of Zsolt and Megan, who will be baptized this Sunday at St Brigid's Church, Ballan. We welcome him into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Vicar-General Appointment - Fr Marcello Colasante:

Following the resignation of Fr. Kevin Maloney due to health reasons, Bishop Paul has recently announced the appointment of Fr Marcello Colasante as the new Vicar General. Fr Marcello will continue in his service as Parish Priest of Ballarat North and Wendouree. He will begin in the role of Vicar General on November 20th.

Christmas Gathering - Sunday, December 3rd

This year's Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at Donegan's Farm at 6.30pm; Cost \$30 per head. Please complete the *Christmas Dinner Booking Form* after mass or email the Gordon Parish Office at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or leave a message on the Gordon Office landline at 53689280. All are welcome to attend especially parishioners from our neighbouring parishes – Bungaree, Daylesford and Creswick.

Parish of Gordon

Sacramental Program 2024

The sacramental program for the Parish of Gordon will be available for children in Year 4 and above who are baptised Catholic. The program will include Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. All enrolments for involvement in the 2024 sacramental program are due prior to Friday 15th December, 2023. Enrolment forms can be collected from St Brigid's Primary School, St Brigid's Church, St Patrick's Primary School and St Patrick's Church. Payment of \$70 is required at the first parent information session.

Reconciliation

Parent Information Session: 21/02/24 @ 7:00pm

- Location: St Brigid's Primary School, Ballan
- Celebration of Sacrament: 19/03/24 @ 5:30pm
- Location: St Brigid's Church, Ballan

Confirmation

Parent Information Session: 23/4/24 @ 7:00pm

- Location: St Brigid's Primary School, Ballan
- Celebration of Sacrament: 19/05/24 @ 10:30am
- Location: St Brigid's Church, Ballan

Eucharist

Parent Information Session: 24/07/24 @ 7:00pm

- Location: St Patrick's Primary School, Gordon
- Celebration of Sacrament: 18/08/24 @ 10:30am
- Location: St Brigid's Church, Ballan

As part of the sacramental program, children and families will be required to attend Dismissal Masses for each sacrament.

RCIA for Children 2024

We are inviting expressions of interest from parents seeking baptism for their children who are 7 years and older and have not yet been baptised. Children baptised in another Christian tradition are welcome to join the Christian initiation process. Where a request for baptism of children is made, and neither parent is Catholic, parent(s) will be invited to participate in the RCIA process.

To facilitate this process, all enrolments are required to be submitted prior to Friday 15th December, 2023. This will ensure that we can adequately prepare and create a memorable and spiritually enriching ceremony for your child.

Enrolment forms can be collected from St Brigid's Primary School, St Brigid's Church, St Patrick's Primary School and St Patrick's Church. Payment of \$100 is required upon submitting enrolment form.

Parish of Gordon Contact Details

(03) 5368 9280

0492 903 409

gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. ‘Sir,’ he said ‘you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 NOVEMBER 2023

BEING READY FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD

At first sight, it seems hard to make sense of the choice of readings for this Sunday. How are we to understand and appreciate the combination of the description of the perfect wife from the book of Proverbs, Paul’s advice on the coming of the Day of the Lord, and the warning contained in Jesus’ parable of the talents?

The first reading comes from a world where the role and possibilities for a woman were solely defined by her responsibility for the home. The key to understanding the reading is not the cultural expectations of the woman, limited as they were, but the qualities which mark her life – generosity, diligence, care for the poor and openness to the needy.

Paul sets out to help his community to prepare for the Lord’s return by reminding them that they had no need to fear the coming of the Lord if they live good Christian lives. The most important thing is to live in the present moment well to be ready for the Lord’s return.

Matthew’s community is encouraged to prepare for the Day of the Lord by focusing on the need to make use of the talents and opportunities which the Lord had given them. One of the striking elements of the parable is that the tenants are judged in accordance with what they have been given on an individual basis. Like the woman in the first reading, it is not what you have but how you use it that is most important.

FIRST READING

Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband’s heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have
worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city
gates.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Thess 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Christopher Monaghan CP