

1st Day of Advent (Year B): 2nd/3rd December 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
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

Collections last week

Presbytery	\$277.45	Parish:	\$883.00
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$ 17404.9			

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

Christmas Gathering:

This Sunday, December 3rd at Donegan's Farm. Door opens at 6pm, meal served at 6.30pm.

End of Year School masses:

St Brigid's Ballan: Wednesday, December 13th at 2 pm.
St Patrick's Gordon: Thursday, December 14th at 2 pm.

Ballan Mid-Week Masses during December:

Thursday December 7th at 10.30am. Advent Scripture reflection to follow with Rosemary Canavan.

Thursday December 14th at 10.00am Ballan Hostel Ecumenical Service.

Thursday December 21st at 10.30am Anointing Mass at St Brigid's Ballan.

Parish Leadership Team meeting:

Wednesday December 13th at 5.30pm, Ballan Foyer.



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
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

Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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End of Year School masses:

St Brendan's Dunnstown: Graduation Liturgy Tuesday December 5th at 6.30 pm.
St Peter's Clarkes Hill: Thursday December 7th at 5.30 pm

Celebrating the End of an Era – Saturday, 25th November

The celebration at St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown last Saturday went exceptionally well, with hundreds turning up to join in the activities, inspect the photo exhibits and enjoy the entertainment after dinner. While we are sad that the era of St Brendan's School – 161

years of Catholic education - is ending, we were delighted to hear Tom Sexton, Executive Director of Catholic Education announce that Damascus College will be using the school and grounds for educational purposes. Special thanks to Mrs Inez French, School Principal, St Brendan's staff, parents and students, and the organising committee for this special day.

Annual Christmas cleaning of St Peters Clarkes Hill.

Cleaning of St Peter's at 9am Saturday December 23rd. Please bring along any flowers. All welcome to help.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
2/3 December 2023	1st Sunday of Advent Isa 63:16-17; 64: 1, 3-8		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Mark & Sue Conlan	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
9/10 December 2023	2nd Sunday of Advent Isa 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3: 8-14		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Julie Dargan	Michael & Rosemary Canavan	
16/17 December 2023	3rd Sunday of Advent Isa 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	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					



Logo - <https://www.idpwd.com.au>

Recent death: Valerie Begbie

Anniversaries: Bob Frawley, Michael Frawley, Maurice Kelly, Bishop James O'Collins, James Conlan, Sarah Franklin, Nonie Piece, Fr Justin Woodforde, Mick O'Loughlin, Mary Toohey, Harry Hooker, James Simpson, George Smith, Margaret Price.

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.

Pope's intention for December – For persons with disabilities: *We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. Lord, hear us.*

Baptism: We pray for Isabelle Pearl Dalton, daughter of Daniel and Aliesha, who will be baptized this Sunday at St Brigid's Church, Ballan. We welcome her into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Ordination to the Diaconate: Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. All welcome. Mass will be livestreamed. Link to be advised.

Christmas Mass Times

Parish of Gordon - Christmas Eve Vigil Masses (Sunday December 24th)

5.30pm St Brigid's Ballan 7.00pm St Michael's Springbank 7.30pm St Patrick's Gordon

Parish of Bungaree Christmas Eve Vigil Masses (Sunday December 24th)

6pm St Peter's Clarkes Hill 8pm St Michael's Bungaree

Christmas Day

9 am St Brendan's Dunnstown

Parishes of Daylesford and Creswick

8.30pm Daylesford Christmas Eve and 9.00am Creswick Christmas Day

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and
come down — at your Presence the mountains
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but
you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/shine forth
from your cherubim throne./O Lord, rouse up
your might,/O Lord, come to our help. **R.**



2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/look
down from heaven and see./Visit this vine
and protect it,/the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,/the man you have given your strength./
And we shall never forsake you again:/give us
life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces
you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank
him that you have been enriched in so many
ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong
among you so that you will not be without any
of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting
for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he
will keep you steady and without blame until
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,
because God by calling you has joined you to
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ **The word of the Lord.**