

2nd Week of Advent (Year B): 9/10 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
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Collections last week

Presbytery \$400.65	Parish: \$1638.9
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$ 19043.8	

Christmas Dues: \$25.00

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.

Christmas Cheer-9th December: Join the [Springbank](#) community to celebrate the coming Christmas/end of year this Saturday at St Michael's after the vigil mass.

All welcome - Christmas Cuppa - 17th December

[Gordon](#) get-together with refreshments after 9am mass.
Drinks & cake after Sunday's 10.30 mass at [Ballan](#).

Ballan Mid-Week Masses during December:

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.

Sacramental Program 2024 closing date: 15th December:

Enrolments for next year's Sacramental Program close this Friday. Enrolments forms available from all churches.



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
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Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery: \$463.00	Parish: \$420.00
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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. 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.

Christmas get-together at St Michael's Bungaree this Sunday after the 8.45 am mass. All welcome.

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
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		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Julie Dargan	Michael & Rosemary Canavan	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
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 – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	
23/24 December 2023	4th Sunday of Advent 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16:25-27		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Rosemary Canavan	Ciaran, Janine & Connor O'Donohue	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Dom Prendergast	Kate Bennett	Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		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					



Advent candles. | Romolo Tavini/Shutterstock, <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/>

Anniversaries: Bill Mahar, Margaret Clifford, Margaret Fuller, Ronald K. Graham, Maisie Frawley, Peter Quinlan, Maurice Torpy, Maureen Frawley, Ron Devlin, John Senserrick.

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.

Baptism: We pray for Audrey Maher, daughter of Mitchell and Makaela, who will be baptized this Sunday at St Michael's Church, Bungaree. 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.

Announcement regarding CDF Merger

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has made an announcement regarding the merger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund. Details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/> Copies of this announcement have been placed in all churches.

Synod on Synodality update

- **Reflecting on the Synthesis Report:** The General Secretariat of the Synod at the Holy See is encouraging the Church throughout the world to read and reflect on the synthesis report from the First Assembly of the Synod. They have recently released a short Facebook video which poses several questions to consider in your reflections. The video and questions for reflection are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>
- **Letter to the People of God:** Watch the audio visual version of the Letter to the People of God <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

Plenary Council update: Church in Australia carrying forward its pursuit of synodality

One "particular grace" of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia has been its encouragement of many initiatives in the Church across the country, according to a letter to the People of God prepared for the Solemnity of Christ the King. As the Church marked the end of the liturgical year, the letter provides an update on work carrying forward the Plenary Council's outcomes while awaiting the Holy See's formal recognition of the Council's decrees. Read the letter at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/plenary-council-2020/>

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings essential ph. 0419 975914.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling with the escalating cost of living crisis this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



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

waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

10 DECEMBER 2023

IN THE WILDERNESS

In Australia we experience the desert and wilderness in all its beauty and expanse, yet it can be a lonely, dangerous place. Today we hear a voice crying out in the wilderness in the time of Isaiah and echoed in the Gospel. This voice also cries out to us today, in the wilderness and the desert of our lives. The voice is consolation: "Console, console my people" (Is 40:1). It bellows, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Is 40:3). Isaiah's words create an image of the landscape of our life and soul, in need of God.

The Gospel engages this imagery for John the Baptist, a guide in the wilderness who heralds the Messiah. Mark gives name to the voice just as he identified that this writing is "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). Although the name of Isaiah is invoked, the first quote is from Malachi "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way (1:2 cf. Mal 3:1); then comes the echo from Isaiah 40:3. Here in the wilderness John announces the one who is to come who will baptise with the Holy Spirit (Mark 7-8). This is the announcement of the Messiah, the one longed for. As we hear that voice in our wilderness, we know that Jesus is with us. We can reflect on our attention to his presence and our welcome to him in our souls and lives.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,/ a voice that speaks of peace,/ peace for his people./ His help is near for those who fear him/ and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/ justice and peace have embraced./ Faithfulness shall spring from the earth/ and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper/ and our earth shall yield its fruit./ Justice shall march before him/ and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are