

3rd Week of Advent (Year B): 16/17 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	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	\$479.40	Parish:	\$376.50
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$ 19420.3			

Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their generosity. Your donations contribute to the well-being of our clergy, pastoral activities and the maintenance of our churches.

Ballan Mid-Week Masses during December:

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

Christmas Cheer – This Sunday – 17th December:

Gordon get-together with refreshments after 9am mass.

Christmas Cuppa after Sunday's 10.30 mass at [Ballan](#).

Masses Over Christmas-New Year:

Mass times over the Christmas-New Year week will follow the regular weekly schedule (see below).

Please refer to the following page for Christmas mass times in the parishes of Gordon and Bungaree, as well as the parishes of Creswick and Daylesford. Consult the Diocese webpage for mass times in other parishes.

Donation Boxes for St Vincent de Paul:

For parishioners wishing to contribute to Vinnies Christmas Appeal, donation boxes have been placed in the foyer of St Brigid's and St Patrick's 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	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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Masses Over Christmas-New Year:

Mass times over the Christmas-New Year week will follow the regular weekly schedule (see below).

Please refer to the following page for Christmas mass times in the parishes of Gordon and Bungaree, as well as the parishes of Creswick and Daylesford. Consult the Diocese webpage for mass times in other parishes.

Parish Leadership Team Meeting – 18th December:

The Bungaree Parish Leadership will hold its last meeting for the year this Monday, 18th December at 7pm at the Bungaree Presbytery.

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
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		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
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 – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Dom Prendergast	Kate Bennett	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		
30/31 December 2023	The Holy Family Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3; Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19		
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	Lloyd Lamb	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	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					

Saint John the Baptist by Alvise Vivarini ca. 1475 ©Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid



Anniversaries: Raymond Butler, Jessie Robinson, Fred Begbie, Anne-Maree (Steenhuis) Block, Anne (Cullinan) Griffin, Monica McDermott, Anna Bartaska, Brian Shanahan, Margaret Toohey, Jeanette Kathlyn Delbridge, Patrick Green, Roma Barry, Brian Barry.

We offer our prayers for the sick: Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, John Healy, Elaine Conlan and Lorraine Tipple.

Baptism: We pray for Tilman Minkervis, child of Aidan and Elke, who will be baptized this Sunday at St Patrick's Church, Gordon. We welcome him into our faith community.

Synod on Synodality update:

- **Reflecting on the Synthesis Report:** The General Secretariat of the Synod at the Holy See is encouraging all to read and reflect on the synthesis report from the First Assembly of the Synod. A short Facebook video which poses several questions to consider in your reflections has been released. The video and questions for reflection are available from <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/>

Advent Appeal for Ukraine – this weekend:

Last Advent, Australian dioceses took up a special collection for the people of Ukraine through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. To donate, go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/advent-appeal-for-ukraine-2/>

Making a Scene at Christmas:

Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives from Tuesday, December 5 – Friday, December 22. You can see and smell frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from around the world). For more information on the Ballarat Bridge Mall display, please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

Christmas Mass Times

Parish of Gordon - Christmas Eve Vigil Masses (Sunday December 24th)
5.30pm St Brigid's Ballan 7pm 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 (Monday December 25th)
9am St Brendan's Dunnstown

Parishes of Daylesford and Creswick
8.30pm Daylesford **Christmas Eve** and 9am Creswick **Christmas Day**
New Year' Day - Solemnity of Mary (January 1st)
9am Creswick 10.30am Daylesford

GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8,19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

17 DECEMBER 2023

SHEER JOY

What brings joy to you? What makes your heart sing? Joy is infectious. Joy rings out today from the beginning of our prayer with the Entrance Antiphon “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” (Phil 4:4-5). Isaiah proclaims, “I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God” (Isa 61:10). The psalm, drawn from the Magnificat in Luke, invites us to respond: “My soul rejoices in my God” (Luke 1:46), and we hear “My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour” (vv. 46-47). Paul’s final exhortation from his First Letter to the Thessalonians begins “Rejoice always” (1 Thess 5:16). What is the cause of all this rejoicing? It is the story of the Good News unfolding from the prophet Isaiah, becoming flesh through Mary’s faithful response; it is God’s gift of God’s son, Jesus, born among us who has been raised. We draw near to the celebration of Jesus’ birth but we live in the light of resurrection, so we have reason to rejoice.

Today’s Gospel reveals the witness to the coming of Jesus, “a man sent from God” (John 1:6). We hear emphatic repetition of the truth with both “witness” and “light” repeated three times. John is the voice in the wilderness confirming “the one who is coming after” (1:27).

Today our hearts lift with joy amid all that might distress us. We are faithful believers in God’s saving grace. Take a moment to hear: “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks to God” (1 Thess 5:16-17).

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. ‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. ‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of nations.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. **R.**
3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!