

4th Sunday in Advent (Year B): 23/24 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: ☎ 5368 1015

☎ 5368 9495

www.sballan.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Paul McDowell

☎ 5368 9495

www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections last week

Presbytery	\$475.30	Parish:	\$2212
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$21632.3			

Thank You: We thank all who give generously to each of these collections. Donations to the Parish are vital to the sustainability of our parish community.

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. 2023 parish Christmas Mass times are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/christmas-mass-times-in-the-diocese/>

Office Hours over Christmas New Year:

The parish office will be closed over Christmas-New Year. The office will re-open on Tuesday, 16th January. The mobile phone will be attended to. For urgent matters, ring Fr Sajan on the Bungaree presbytery landline on 5334 0450.



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:	\$370.00	Parish:	\$1345.00
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Thank You: We thank all our parishioners and visitors to our parish for their donations to the presbytery and the parish during the past year. It is sincerely appreciated. Special thanks to the Syro-Malabar community who attended St Michael's Church every Sunday afternoon to celebrate mass with Fr Sajan.

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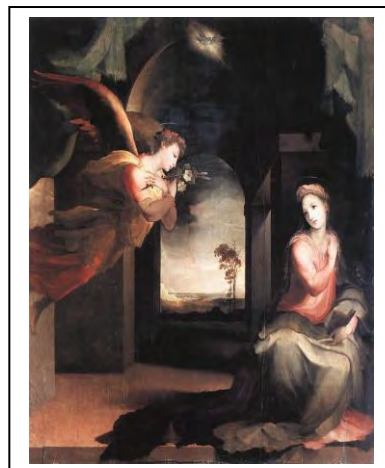
	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
23/24 December 2023	4th Sunday of Advent 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16:25-27		
Ballan -6.00 pm	To be Advised	To be Advised	Tuesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill -6.30 pm	Dom Prendergast	Kate Bennett	Wednesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon -9 am	To be Advised		Thursday - 9.30 am Bungaree
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 - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree -8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan -10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	
6/7 January 2023	The Epiphany of the Lord Isa 60: 1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6		
Dunnstown -6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		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	Kelly Hunter & family	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					

'The Annunciation' by Domenico Beccafumi, 1545 File: The Annunciation - WGA01551.jpg. Created: circa 1545date QS:P571,+1545-00-00T00:00:00Z/9,P1480,Q5727902. Public Domain. Downloaded: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annunciation_in_Christian_art#/media/File:Domenico_Beccafumi_-_The_Annunciation_-_WGA01551.jpg

Anniversaries: Sheila Gregory, Pleasance Conroy, Kathleen Hall, Marie Graham, Fr Daniel Devane, Eileen Elliott, Fr Stephen O'Rourke, Annie (Snow) Prendergast, Roy Tynan



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.

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.*

Columban Calendars for 2024: If you wish to purchase a 2024 Columban calendar for \$10, copies have been placed in all churches. Alternatively, email or ring the parish office on 0492 903 409.

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2024

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message is available to view on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-3/>. A hard copy of the message is also available to download from this page. Copies of Bishop Paul's Christmas Message are available from all churches.

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/>

Ordination to the Diaconate Mass for Cay Peter Trinh – Saturday, December 16, 2023

Thank you to all who gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral last Saturday, or joined the livestream, to celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate for Cay Trinh. To the Ballarat Cathedral Parish volunteers and to all who assisted with the morning – to the musicians, choir members, those who prepared the Cathedral, welcomers, ushers and to anyone who helped out in any way – your time and contribution was very much appreciated by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. We pray for Cay as he begins this important ministry in his journey to priesthood.

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 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

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

24 DECEMBER 2023

THE ANNUNCIATION

On the eve of Christmas, today's Gospel reminds us of how the birth of Jesus is possible. Luke's narrative describes God sending the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. It is a familiar story to us, yet nothing of it is in our realm of experience.

This event is reported in a series of stories paralleling the annunciation and birth accounts of John the Baptist and Jesus. The narrative will present John as herald of the arrival of Jesus as Messiah when the time of his public ministry arrives, fulfilling God's promise.

Rightly this is an account of God's activity via Gabriel announcing first to Zechariah and then to Mary. Here is a moment bathed in God's grace. God's incarnation will occur in a natural human manner, born of a woman. Yet take a focus on Mary and imagine again the appearance of an angel. No surprise that she might be perplexed (Luke 1:29). Yet Mary responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (v. 38).

Mary also hears of her cousin Elisabeth's fortunate conception and sets off to see her. Their meeting, the centrepiece of the double annunciations and births, reveals these two women in embrace, together they usher in the birth of the Son of God. Today, the focus is on Mary's embrace of her mission but she is part of a larger story, God's story. Mary is a courageous woman who in the face of an impossible challenge steps forward in faith.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever." '

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**