

The Nativity of the Lord (Year B): 24/25 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	\$475.30	Parish:	\$2212
Financial Year to Date: Parish: \$21632.3			

Thank You:

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

Columban Calendars for 2024 are now available from all churches.

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.

Office Hours over Christmas New Year:

The parish office will be closed over Christmas-New Year. The office will re-open on Wednesday, 17th January. The mobile phone will be attended to.



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 planned giving program 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.

Liturgy Readers for 2024:

The parish invites interested parishioners, including family groups, to include their name/s on next year's liturgy rosters for St Brendan's Dunnstown, St Michael's Bungaree

and St Peter's Clarkes Hill. Please contact Fr. Sajan or any member of the Leadership Team. Alternatively, email the parish office at bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Columban Calendars for 2024: Columban calendars for 2024 are now available from all churches.

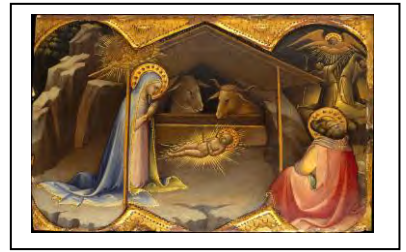
Office Hours over Christmas New Year:

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

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
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		Tuesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Bungaree -8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan -10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	Thursday - 9.30 am Bungaree
6/7 January 2023	The Epiphany of the Lord Isa 60: 1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6		
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-9 am	To be Advised		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan -10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Kelly Hunter & family	
13/14 January 2024	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sam 3: 3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20		
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	Lesley Morffew	Ciaran, Janine & Connor Donohue	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 Nativity' by Lorenzo Monaco (Piero di Giovanni). Downloaded: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/459007>. Public Domain

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.

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.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2023 -TODAY:

The Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to the diocese for assistance. Total donations in 2022 were \$44,000. Funds were distributed to: Catholic Mission Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine, Caritas Humanitarian Aid for Gaza, St Columban's Mission 'Shared Table' Peru, Nazareth House Ballarat, St Vincent de Paul, CatholicCare Victoria, Aid for the Church in Need and Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH). You may also donate via the Diocese webpage. Go to the (circular icon) 'Parish Giving' link towards the bottom of the Diocese website homepage, click on 'Parish Giving'. Select your parish, then from the drop-down box 'My Giving is For' and select Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

Recent Happenings in the Diocese - New Ministry Districts in the Diocese of Ballarat:

On December 6, 2023, Bishop Bird announced via email that a new grouping of parishes will take effect after Easter 2024. This decision was informed by the *Looking Forward Pastoral Plan*. The new ministry districts will be:

- Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish and Beaufort Parish,
- Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish,
- Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish and
- Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and Daylesford Parish.

Appointments of parish priests to the new ministry districts will take effect on April 10, 2024.

Advance Notice 2024

- **Rite of Election:** Saturday, February 17 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.
- **Mass of the Oils:** Monday, March 25 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

150 years of the Diocese of Ballarat – 2024:

On March 30 next year, the Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150. There will be a number of events held next year to mark this occasion. The latest edition of ODC has a very informative article of the formation of the diocese, written by Sr Berenice Kerr RSM. See the display board in your church for the timeline of events.

Diocesan e-News & "Our Diocesan Community"

- **e-News:** The latest edition of e-News has been published and is available to view at <https://mailchi.mp/99caecc117ab/edition-119-february-15-13920893> You can also view this edition at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/> or you can subscribe on this page to receive future editions straight to your email address.
- **"Our Diocesan Community:** The final edition of ODC has been distributed and is also available to view on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/odc/>



Caritas Christmas Appeal

Donate this Christmas and give the gift of a child's smile.
Your donation helps families receive a brighter future.
Scan or click the QR code to donate.



MASS DURING THE DAY

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet
Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of

music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

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.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B

25 DECEMBER 2023

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7
A reading from the prophet
Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS 95:1-3, 11-13 R. v. Lk 2:11
R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Tit 2:11-14
A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world:/

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Lk 2:1-14
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR
BRING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.