

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B): 27/28 January 2024

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 from last week

Presbytery	\$343.85	Parish:	\$290.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$23,587.30			

Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their generosity.

Feast of St Brigid of Ireland

Thursday February 1st is the **Feast of St Brigid of Ireland**.
Feast day Mass will be celebrated at **11.30am** in St Brigid's
Church with the students and staff from St Brigid's Primary

school in attendance for their opening of the school year
Mass. All are welcome to join this feast day celebration.

Volunteers for 2024:

Are you interested in becoming more involved in our mass
services in the parish? If you or other family members are
interested in reading the liturgy, church music or
supporting our sacristans, please contact Fr. Justin or any
member of the Leadership Team. Alternatively, email the
parish office at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au



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: Clare Scanlan ☎ 5334 5280

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Collections to 17 January 2024:

Presbytery:	\$740.00	Parish:	\$NA
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Thank You: We thank all our parishioners and visitors to
our parish for their donations.

Working Bee this Saturday – Former Bungaree School

The Parish Leadership Team has organised a clean-up of
the grounds of the former Bungaree school this Saturday,
January 27th commencing 10 am. (The former school is
behind St Michael's Church). All are welcome to help!

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/

Alert–Emails sent from Parish of Bungaree email address:

The Parish of Bungaree email address was compromised in
early January 2024. Several parishioners have received
spam emails asking them to verify their contact details, or
the contact details of a parishioner, or asking them to open
a file to view photos.

Please monitor all emails sent from the Parish of Bungaree
email - bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au/ as they may
be spams and be alert to any request to open attachments
and/or files or click on links.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
27/28 January 2024	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deut 18: 15-20; 1 Cor 7: 32-35	
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Julie Dargan & Jim Leahy	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	To be Advised	Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
3/4 February 2024	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23	
Dunnstown–6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan –10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Bridgit Sims & Family	
10/11 February 2024	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deut 18: 15-20; 1 Cor 7: 32-35	
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	Con Powell	Marty Forbes	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					

St. Brigid. Artist: Vikki Boka. Gathering Space, St Brigid's Church, Ballan. Photo: A Toohey



Recent Deaths: Patricia Murray (Ballarat East)

Anniversaries: Len Howard, Morrie Holloway, Kathryn Gray, Vin O'Donohue, Ted Cass, Noel Quinlan, Frank McDaid, Christopher Davies, Catherine Butler, Mary Blood, Philip Crowe, John Falko, Justin Toohey, Des Quinlan, Audrey Reddie

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 Prayer for January: This month, Pope Francis asks us to join him in praying **for the gift of diversity in the Church.** We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Lenten Gospel Reflection

Once again Rosemary Canavan has generously offered to facilitate Lenten reflection on the Gospels for the Sundays of Lent - Thursdays February 22nd, 29th and March 7th, 14th and 21st in the gathering area of St Brigid's Church Ballan, following the 10.30am Mass each Thursday.

Living in Harmony - 2024 Lenten Program

Six authors for the Garratt Lenten program, featuring Joan Chittister, Paul Creevey, Andy Hamilton, Gerard Moore, Paul Rowse and Debra Snoddy. They open up the Sunday readings and provide us with probing questions – uniting these insights in 2024 to build a vital and dynamic response of Christian harmony. This is the best of Lent, and leads to the best of times.

This is our Lenten fare, the stuff of our Lenten fast. One aspect is the need for harmony. It is a word reduced too much to wellbeing: we will pursue its faith dimensions. Harmony is a discipline. It has to be won, held, remade, revalued. At its best, it is built around the joyful play of difference, a mutual love and respect, and a treasuring of other voices and ways. It builds for a trust and consensus. To order your copy the Lenten Program **Living in Harmony** (\$10 each) please contact Aileen in the Parish Office.

Mass to Launch Project Compassion 2024

Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held on Sunday, February 11 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the Main Celebrant and will commission Student Leaders as Ambassadors for Caritas 2024. All welcome to attend.



Advance Notice 2024

Rite of Election 2024: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

Mass of the Oils 2024: Monday, March 25, 2024 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 30th this year, the Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150. Many events have been organised during the year, including the Anniversary Liturgy during the Mass of the Oils on March 25 at St Patrick's Cathedral and the 150th Anniversary on Holy Saturday, March 30th.

All parishes will celebrate anniversary liturgies on the fifth Sunday of Easter on April 28th. Bishop Paul will visit all parishes in the Diocese during 2024. On the weekend of August 31st-September 1st, Bishop Paul will visit Bungaree and Gordon.

Alleluia, alleluia! / A people in darkness have seen a great light: / a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

28 JANUARY 2024

LISTEN

Listening is a central part of being a follower of Christ: listening to the Holy Spirit, to the Word, and to each other. Today we are called to listen and give undivided attention to the Lord, to a prophet like Moses, and to Jesus in the Gospel.

Moses reveals that "God will raise up a prophet like myself from among yourselves, from your own people ... to him you must listen" (Deut 18:15). He reminds the people that this is what they have asked for. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses the anxieties of the community as "the present form of the world is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). Paul expresses his wish that they be free from anxieties by giving attention to the Lord.

The Gospel continues the beginning of Jesus ministry in what I call "Jesus Central" – Capernaum (Kefar Nahum). It is where Jesus made his home during his Galilean ministry. We notice it is Shabbat, the sabbath, and Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. "They" (those in the synagogue) are astounded by his teaching. "They" are listening as he teaches with authority. Juxtaposed with this is the exorcism of an unclean spirit which brings both amazement and the question: "what is this? A new teaching with authority" (v. 27). We hear that his fame spreads, but are they truly listening, and do they recognise who he is? Jesus proclaims the good news in word and deed and expects a change of heart. How are we listening today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Deut 18: 15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

■ **The word of the Lord**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9. R. v. 9

R. If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 7: 32-35

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

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.**