

Second Sunday of Lent (Year B): 24/25 February 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), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (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	\$423.65	Parish:	\$349.85
Financial Yr to Date: \$27163.15			

Thank You:

We thank all parishioners for their donations.

Mid-Week Ballan Mass: Thursday February 29th
@10.30am and Lenten scripture reflection. All welcome.

World Day of Prayer this Friday: March 1st in St Brigid's at 10 am. Followed by morning tea. All welcome,

Parish Leadership Team:

The parish thanks Nola Kersley for her service on the Parish Leadership Team as one of the delegates for the Ballan

community. Jim Leahy will join the Leadership Team replacing Nola, together with Mark Conlan (continuing) as the two delegates from Ballan - thanks Jim.

Parish Reconciliation Program:

At Masses this weekend we welcome the children and their families who are commencing their preparation to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (Tuesday March 19th at 5.30pm in Ballan). We also welcome children who are to be enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (adapted for children) as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist to be celebrated towards the end of the year. We pray for these children, their families and those involved in their preparation.



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: Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds

(Dunnstown) Dom Prendergast & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill). Ex-Officio Member: Clare Scanlon

Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey. Parish Office (Tues 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 Scanlon ☎ 5334 5280

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery:	NA	Parish:	NA
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Parish Leadership Team Update

Last Tuesday evening the Parish Leadership Team welcomed Steven Mifsud, Principal of Damascus College. Steven provided an update on their plans for St Brendan's. Preparations for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat were discussed, including the forthcoming visit of Bishop Paul on August 31st-Sept 1st.

Safeguarding issues raised by the Professional Standards Office were noted incl. the Working with Children Check List and Parish Self-Audit Professional Standards Checklist.

Alert-Emails sent from Parish of Bungaree email address:

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
24/25 February 2024	Second Sunday of Lent Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Rom 8: 31-34		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Tania Hoffman	Rosemary & Michael Canavan	Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Con Powell	Marty Forbes	Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
2/3 March 2024	Third Sunday of Lent Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Cor 1: 22-25		
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan –10.30 am	Catherine Green	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	
9/10 March 2024	Fourth Sunday of Lent 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23; Eph 2: 4-10		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	Liz O'Loughlin		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree – 8.45am	To be advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jayne Bosworth	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					

(CNS graphic/Nancy Wiehech) downloaded: <https://www.catholicsun.org/2015/02/11/lenten-inspiration/>



Recent Deaths: Laurie Mullane

Anniversaries: Catherine Parkin, Eileen White, Elizabeth Flynn, Carmen Galea, Arthur Jones, Louise Tubbs, Joan Arnal, Maria Steenhuis, Liam Begbie, Sr Anne Forbes RSM, Cecelia Haintz, Ellie Walsh, Diane Johnson, Tom O’Loughlin, Brian Bayle, Kevin McGuigan, Con McTigue.

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, Karem Chiparra.

Pope’s intention for February – For the terminally ill: *Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment. Lord, hear us.*

Pope Francis’ Message for Lent 2024 is focussed on God’s call to leave behind the bonds of slavery with the title, “Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom”, which is from the Book of Exodus (20:2). Watch the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXPPVVtpHBM&t=408s> Read the message at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html>

World Day of Prayer 2024 – Friday, March 1, 2024

WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation from the WDP International Committee in 2017 to write the 2024 program. The theme is “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion or origins.

World Day of Prayer services in Ballarat and Creswick this year on Friday, March 1:

- 10.00am at St Peter’s Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street West, Ballarat
- **10.00am at St Brigid’s Church, Ballan**
- 2.00pm at St Mary’s Anglican Church, Birchip
- 6.00pm at St Paul’s Anglican Church, 3 Humffray Street, Bakery Hill
- 7.00pm at St John’s Anglican Church, 103 Napier Street, Creswick



Project Compassion 2024 – Second Sunday of Lent: Meet Ronita

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS. After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia’s partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Download the weekly reflection by Michael McGirr from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/mission-and-outreach/project-compassion-2024/>



Mission: Transform Lives: Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. Bishop Paul has written a letter of endorsement for the work of Palms Australia.

Learn more at <https://palms.org.au/> or ph. 02 9560 5333, Join the **Mission Webinar** on **March 5**

from 6.00pm–6.30pm <https://palms.org.au/event/global-development-webinar/> Join the **two-week tour to Timor-Leste** on 06/05/2024 to see partner communities in action <https://palms.org.au/encounters/timor-leste-cultural-encounter/>



St Patrick’s Day Luncheon: Sunday 17th March at 12.30pm. Cost: \$35 for a two-course meal, with nibble platters.

Bungaree parishioners very welcome. Contact Gordon Parish Office at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au; 0492 903 409.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark.

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Dr Rosemary Canavan