

# Third Sunday of Lent (Year B): 2/3 March 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	\$344.45	Parish:	\$250.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$27413.15			

**Thank You:** We thank all who contribute to these collections.

**Mid-Week Ballan Prayer Service:** Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>  
@10.30am and Lenten scripture reflection. All welcome.

### Parish Reconciliation Program:

Last weekend we welcomed 19 children and their families who commenced their preparation to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at

5.30pm in Ballan). We also welcome 10 children who are 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 and their families as they commence their sacramental journey.

**St Vincent de Paul Food Collection:** This Lent the parish invites parishioners to *join in the spirit of giving* and contribute towards those in need. Food baskets have been placed in the churches for non-perishable food items. Thank you for your kindness.



## 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

### Collections from last fortnight

Presbytery:	\$572.00	Parish:	\$329.00
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**Donation:** \$386.50      **Christmas Dues:** \$200.00  
Thanks to all parishioners who so generously gave to each of these collections.

### Parish Leadership Team Update

On the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> February, 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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

Diocese of Ballarat were discussed, including the forthcoming visit of Bishop Paul on August 31<sup>st</sup>-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Safeguarding issues raised by the Professional Standards Office were noted incl. the Working with Children Check List and Parish Self-Audit Professional Standards Checklist.

### St Vincent de Paul Food Collection:

If you wish to *join in the spirit of giving* and contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Food Collection this Lent, food baskets have been placed in the churches for non-perishable food items. Thank you for your kindness.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
<b>2/3 March 2024</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Cor 1: 22-25</b>		
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	Catherine Green	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	Thursday - 9.30 am Bungaree
<b>9/10 March 2024</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23; Eph 2: 4-10</b>		
Springbank - 6.30 pm	Liz O'Loughlin		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree - 8.45am	To be advised		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan - 10.30 am	Jayne Bosworth	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	
<b>16/17 March 2024</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9</b>		
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	Margaret Green	Kelly Hunter and Family	Holy Hour - 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month

**LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> 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					



**Anniversaries:** Kathleen Leonard, Jack O’Donohue, Maureen O’Halloran, Maureen O’Donohue, Lil Wickson, Con Carey, William Rosenow, Bill Wheelahan, Tommy Simpson and Gert Cummins.

**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 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=zXPPVtpHBM&t=408s> Read the message at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html>

**Baptisms:** We pray for Elody Isobel Peelman, daughter of Ben and Erin Maree; Oliver James Burt, son of Cameron and Sara; and Violet Andie Brne and Ruby Olive Brne daughters of Michael and Hana; who will be baptised this Sunday in St Brigid’s Church Ballan.

We also pray for Margot Jane Forbes, daughter of Thomas and Jane who will be baptised this weekend in the Parish of Bungaree. We welcome them into our faith communities. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

**Letter from Bishop Paul**

Hello Everyone,

On December 6, following discussions with priests and parishioners, I announced that we would have four ministry districts in the Ballarat region.

After further consultations, I am now able to make appointments of priests to serve in these groups of parishes. The following appointments will take effect on April 10, 2024.

- Ballarat Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish and Beaufort Parish
  - Administrator: Fr Edward Moloney
  - Assistant Priests: Fr James McKay, Fr Francis Kureeckal MST
- Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish
  - Parish Priest: Fr Justin Driscoll
  - Assistant Priest: Fr Matthew Restall
- Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish
  - Parish Priest: Fr Concord Bagaoisan OSJ
  - Assistant Priest: Fr Eladio Lizada OSJ
- Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and Daylesford Parish
  - Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

In view of Fr Matthew Restall’s appointment to the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon Parishes, I have appointed Fr Sajan Mathew as Assistant Priest in the Paul VI Parish in the Wimmera-Mallee.

The priests who are currently serving in these parishes will continue in their current appointments until April 10, when the new appointments will take effect. I hope this advance planning will be helpful in allowing time to prepare for the transition to the new arrangements.

I thank everyone who has been involved in the consultations over the past few months. I thank the priests for their readiness to serve in the various parish communities.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

**St Patrick’s Day Luncheon:**

Sunday 17th March at 12.30pm at Donegan’s Farm. Cost: \$35 for a two-course meal, with nibble platters. Bungaree parishioners very welcome. Contact Gordon Parish Office at [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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. This year the Mass will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivllKiHs?feature=share>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / B

3 MARCH 2024

## CHRIST, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

The image of a limp, distorted body on the cross, which we know as the crucifix, has a long history of development. While its central place with the altar in our churches and its focus for personal devotion may seem normal to us, it is an anathema to others. How is this the focus of our belief and worship? A reminder of the sacrifice, its very presence points to the resurrection, salvation and the hope of everlasting life with God who loves us.

Today's readings grapple with this dilemma. Paul's words to the Corinthians capture something of the complexity of those early days of preaching the Good News: "preaching a crucified Christ." Who would believe in a dead Messiah? Yet Paul insists "but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles, a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). Paul's tussle with this is juxtaposed with John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple where Jesus says, "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). This imagery made no sense to the Judeans for this Temple, the Holy of the Holies and dwelling place of God took 46 years to build. The narrator adds that the temple Jesus spoke of was his own body. The narrator also recounts that the disciples had heard Jesus' words but it made no sense to them either until the event of the resurrection. Let us contemplate Christ as the power and wisdom of God.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

*The Law was given through Moses.*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

### ■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form, 20: 1-17.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6: 68

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**
4. They are more to be desired than gold, / than the purest of gold / and sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 22-25

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

*We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

**God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**