

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B): 9/10 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	\$459.15	Parish:	\$904.20
Financial Yr to Date: \$28317.35			

Mid-Week Mass, Ballan: Anointing Mass at St Brigid's Ballan Thursday March 14th at 10.30am.

Next Sunday, March 17th - Change of mass times:

As Inglis Street will be closed during the Ballan Autumn Festival next Sunday, mass at St Brigid's Ballan on 17th March will commence at 9am. Mass at St Patrick's Gordon will be held at 10.30 am.

Parish Leadership Team meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday March 13th in the gathering area of the Ballan Church.

St Patrick's Day Luncheon-Sunday March 17th @ 12.30pm

All parishioners are invited to the luncheon next Sunday at Donegan's Farm. Cost: \$35 for a two-course meal, with nibble platters. If you would like to attend, sign the booking form at the church foyer or contact the Gordon Parish Office at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au; Mobile: 0492 903 409.

St Patrick's School Gordon will celebrate Mass in the Church for St Patrick's Day on Monday March 18th at 10.00am with an open invitation to all to attend.

Upcoming Events:

- The Ecumenical Service and Anointing at Mecwacare Ballan on Thursday March 21st at 10.00am.
- Celebration of 1st Reconciliation on Tuesday March 19th at 5.30pm at Ballan.



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:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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Invitation to Patrick's Day Luncheon

Next Sunday, 17th March is St Patrick's Day. The Parish of Gordon invites Bungaree parishioners to the luncheon at Donegan's Farm @ 12.30pm. Cost: \$35 for a two-course meal, with nibble platters. Contact Gordon Parish Office at

gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au; Landline: 5368 9280, Mobile: 0492 903 409.

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Annual Report: A copy of the report from the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is available from the diocesan website at: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
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		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be advised		Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jayne Bosworth	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
16/17 March 2024	Fifth Sunday of Lent Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 9 am*	Margaret Green	Kelly Hunter and Family	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 10.30 am*	To be Advised		
23/24 March 2024	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Marie Shanahan	Ciaran, Janine & Connor Donohue	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Julie Moran	Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised		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					



Recent Deaths: Patricia Gunn (Ballarat)

Prayer cards available from all churches

Anniversaries: Antal Boka, Matt Jamieson, Maurice Conlan, Gabrielle Johnson, Kath Squire, Albert Small, Douglas Trounce, John (Bernie) Ryan, Frank Sims, Margaret O’Regan, Anne Quinn, Fr. Henry Nikel and William Dridan

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 and Evelyn Farrugia.

Pope’s intention for March – for new martyrs: *Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. Lord, hear us.*

Baptisms: We pray for Lachlan Xavier Toohey, son of Xavier and Emily; Patrick Theodore Kay and Gabriel James Kay, sons of Adam and Emily; and Elspeth Lillian Tozer, daughter of Aliex and Kim; who will be baptised this Saturday during the vigil mass at St Michael’s Church, Springbank. We welcome them into our faith community. Lord, hear us. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

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. Mass will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlKiHs?feature=share>

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

DAY	CEREMONY	Time & Venue	
Holy Thursday March 28th	Mass of the Lord's Supper	6.30 pm St Michael’s Bungaree	
Good Friday March 29th	Stations of the Cross	10.30 am St Brigid’s Ballan	
	Celebration of the Lord’s Passion	3 pm St Michael’s Springbank	
Holy Saturday March 30th	Easter Vigil Fire and Mass	6.30 pm St Peter’s Clarkes Hill	7.30 pm St Michael’s Springbank
		8 pm St Michael’s Bungaree	
Easter Sunday March 31 st	Mass	9 am St Brendan’s Dunnstown	10.30 am St Brigid’s Ballan

Project Compassion 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent: Meet Memory



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. Donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, visit or call 1800 024 413.



**Save with CDF Community Fund
it’s in everyone’s best interest**



By opening a personal account with CDF Community Fund, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities.

With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including **5.55% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment**, it’s a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, or contact the CDF Team on csg@melbcdf.org.au or phone 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**



2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy. / ‘Sing to us,’ they said, / ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

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

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.