

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B): 16/17 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	\$529.40	Parish:	\$143.80
Financial Yr to Date: \$28461.15			

Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their generosity.

Mass for St Patrick's Day

All are invited to celebrate Mass with the children and staff of St Patrick's School Gordon on Monday March 18th at 10.00am in the Gordon Church.

Mid-Week Mass, Ballan: 11.00am on Thursday March 21st

Ecumenical Service at Mecwacare Ballan:

To be celebrated on Thursday March 21st at 10.00am, including the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick for the Catholic residents. Thank you to Colleen, Lloyd and Lorraine for their ongoing ministry of pastoral care and weekly communion to the residents.

Sunday lunch for St Patrick's Day, March 17th is cancelled.

Instead, all are encouraged to attend the farewell celebration for Fr Sajan on Sunday April 7th. Fr Sajan will celebrate his final weekend of Masses with us on April 6th – 7th with the Vigil Mass at Dunnstown and Sunday Masses at Gordon and Ballan.

Children's Reconciliation:

On Tuesday, March 19th at 5.30pm the children and families enrolled in the Parish Reconciliation program who have been prepared over the weeks of Lent will celebrate their first Reconciliation at St Brigid's Church Ballan. We pray for these children and invite any other parishioners who would like to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation according to the 2nd Rite to attend.

Vigil Mass at Ballan:

Next Saturday's 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Ballan for the 4th Sunday of the month will be the last. From the beginning of April, Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am at Ballan every Sunday. Thank you to those who provided their feedback.



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:	\$575.00	Parish:	\$NA
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Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their donations.

St Patrick's Day's Sunday lunch, March 17th is cancelled.

Fr Sajan's Farewell – Sunday, April 7th

Farewell lunch at Bungaree Recreation Centre at 1 pm.
Meal-2 courses @\$30. Booking forms in all churches or email Parish House at bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ring mobile: 0492 903 409.

Anointing Mass: Wednesday March 27th at 9.30am, St Michael's Bungaree.

Bungaree Parish Leadership Team Meeting:

The Parish Leadership team met last Tuesday evening. The parish welcomed Clare Scanlon, principal of St Mary's School. Issues covered included safeguarding i.e. the

completion of the self-audit professional standards list. Pastoral activities over Easter were finalised, and management of the parish administered properties was discussed.

Caritas Lenten Appeal: The Parish will hold a collection for Caritas over the Easter weekend and the following week. Please include collection boxes/envelopes in this collection

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

What are Easter Dues? A voluntary offering at Easter to clergy for their work and support of our Church. If you wish to donate, Easter Dues envelopes have been placed in all churches.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
16/17 March 2024	Fifth Sunday of Lent Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		Tuesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan – 9 am*	Margaret Green	Kelly Hunter and Family	Wednesday – 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon –10.30 am*	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30 am Bungaree
23/24 March 2024	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Marie Shanahan	Ciaran, Janine & Connor Donohue	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarks Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Julie Moran	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised		Sat – 9.30am Bungaree & Reconciliation
30/31 March 2024	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (see schedule below)		

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* Clarks 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: Maddison Fitzpatrick (Charlton), Graeme Beaston (Ballarat), Sr Joan Dagleish RSM (Ballarat East), Kath Delaney (Ballarat East).

Funeral Mass for Sr Joan Dagleish on Monday, March 18th at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East at 10.30am. Livestreamed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhWByNDRhcM/> burial: <https://youtube.com/live/49AmMba25Ms?feature=share>

Anniversaries: Roy Britt, David Carton, Andrew Barbara, Peter DeSpirt, Harry Wise, Joseph Micallef, Mary Winter, Joseph Spiteri, Renee Barbara, Helen Kuczynski, Brian D’Arcy, Jack Ford, Joseph Cini, Doreen Torpy, Mona Nihill.

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.

*Gratitude is the fairest blossom
which springs from the soul*

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who encouraged me to be Holy, helped me to grow in love of God and who held me as your own in all circumstances, especially in the most trying situations like COVID.

Fr Sajan Mathew
Administrator
Bungaree Parish

Baptisms: We pray for Maggie Kathryn Wallace, daughter of Shayne and Karina; Tiffany Jane Hodge, daughter of Robert and Fluff; and Angus Jack Tatchell, son of Darcy and Samantha; who will be baptized this Sunday at St Brigid’s Church. We also pray for Evelyn Isobel Murphy, daughter of Leigh and Gabrielle; and Thomas Benjamin Mahon, son of Benjamin and Kate; who will be baptized this Sunday at St Patrick’s Gordon. We welcome them into our faith community. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear us. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Project Compassion 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Lent: Partnerships in Action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> call 1800 024 413



Clarks Hill Community Fair – St Mary’s Primary School Clarks Hill on March 23rd 10am-4pm

Lots of fun activities: Music, Market stalls, Handmade crafts, Food trucks, Hot Rod display, Kids pony rides, Farm animal displays, Farm equipment & Steam engines and a visit from the Newlyn CFA fire truck (flyer displayed in churches).

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees – Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace

All are welcome to the Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace on March 24 from 2.00pm – 3.30pm at the McDonald Bandstand, Lake Wendouree Foreshore, opposite the Floral clock in the Botanical Gardens, between Pipers and large playground. Brigidine Sister Brigid Arthur will be one of the guest speakers.

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 Clarks Hill	7.30 pm St Michael’ 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

GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus’. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.’

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: “See the days are coming” and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, “Now the hour has come!” These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God’s time.

Jeremiah’s prophetic words announce God’s new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that “I will be your God and you will be my people” (Jer 31:33).

As John’s passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want *to see* Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier “the world has gone after him” (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, “the world has gone after him,” so he announces, “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: “Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus’ fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

CLARKES HILL COMMUNITY FAIR

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
131 POWELLS RD, CLARKES HILL
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- Food trucks
- Musical entertainment
- Farm Animal displays
- Kids pony rides,
- Hot Rod display
- Face painting
- Kids activities
- Local sports Clubs

Market stalls selling
Fresh local Produce,
handmade Crafts,
Candles, Recycled
Timber creations, Kids
books and more

The event will also include
Farm machinery,
Steam Engines
and a visit from the Newlyn
CFA Fire truck.

