

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B): 20/21 April 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): Mobile 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 | Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth: | ☎ 5368 1015 | www.sballan.catholic.edu.au |
| | St. Patrick's Primary School | Principal: Mr Paul McDowell | ☎ 5368 9495 | www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au |

Collections from last week

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Presbytery | \$449.65 | Parish: | \$400.00 |
| Financial Yr to Date: \$31178.15 | | | |

Mid-Week Mass at Ballan: Mass at Ballan at 10.30am on Thursday April 25th (ANZAC day).

Ballan Mass Times: From the beginning of April, Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am at Ballan every Sunday.

Parish Confirmation Program: An information meeting for parents of children to be enrolled in the Parish Confirmation program will be held at St Brigid's school on Tuesday evening, April 23rd at 7.00pm.

Safeguarding Matters: The Professional Standards Office is organising a (revised and updated) Safetrac online course. All volunteers are required to have a valid working with children card and to complete training programs as advised by the Diocese. Professional Standards have asked for the email addresses of all volunteers required to do the Safetrac course. An email from the diocese will be sent to volunteers with your username and password. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Aileen at the parish office (currently located at the Bungaree Presbytery parish office (5334 0450)).



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)

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|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parish Schools | St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill | Principal: Clare Scanlon | ☎ 5334 5280 | www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|

Presbytery last fortnight, Parish last month

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|------|
| Presbytery: | \$ NA | Parish: | \$NA |
|-------------|-------|---------|------|

Welcome, Fr Justin and Fr Matt

The parishioners of the Parish of Bungaree extend their very best wishes to Fr Justin and Fr Matt, on their appointment as parish priest, and assistant priest to the parish; and their new duties forming the Ministry District Parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon.

Welcome, Fr Jim: Welcome to Fr Jim McKay, celebrating the 6.30pm Vigil Mass at Dunnstown this weekend, enabling Fr Justin to attend a family wedding in St Arnaud.

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| MASS DATES & TIMES | READER/INTERCESSION | OFFERTORY |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 20/21 April 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4: 8-12; 1 Jn 3: 1-2 | |
| Dunnstown – 6.30 pm | Dorothy Sheehan | |
| Gordon – 9 am | To be Advised | |
| Ballan – 10.30 am | Lesley Morffew | Tony & Edith Paarhammer |
| 27/28 April 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31; 1 Jn 3: 18-24 | |
| Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm | Pat Prendergast | Helen Mahar |
| Gordon – 8.45 am | To be Advised | |
| Ballan – 10.30 am | Jayme Naeff | Mark and Sue Conlan |
| 4/5 May 2024 | Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4: 7-10 | |
| Dunnstown – 6.30 pm | Liz Hanrahan | |
| Gordon – 9 am | To be Advised | |
| Ballan – 10.30 am | Julie Dargan/Jim Leahy | Rosemary & Michael Canavan |

| LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 1 st Sunday | 2 nd Sunday | 3 rd Sunday | 4 th Sunday | 5 th Sunday |
| Sat 6.30pm | Dunnstown | Springbank | Dunnstown | Clarke's Hill | Springbank |
| Sun 8.45am, 9am* | Gordon* | Bungaree | Gordon* | Gordon* | Bungaree |
| Sun 10.30am | Ballan | Ballan | Ballan | Ballan | Ballan |
| Vigil Mass ~ Ballarat East 6pm; Sunday Masses ~ Buninyong 9am; Ballarat East 10.30 am (1st & 3rd & 5th Sunday) | | | | | |
| Vigil Mass ~ Ballarat East 6pm; Sunday Masses ~ Ballarat East 9am; Buninyong 10.30 am (2nd & 4th Sunday) | | | | | |

Recent Deaths: Sr Mary Madden RSM (Ballarat East), Bill Gove (Ballarat)

Sr Mary Madden rsm RIP The Funeral Mass for Sr Mary Madden rsm will take place on Tuesday, April 23rd at St Alipius Church Ballarat East at 10.30am AEST. live-stream link: Funeral <https://youtube.com/live/aeXkdNueREc?feature=share>; Burial <https://youtube.com/live/xTbxpt2SWpl?feature=share>.

Anniversaries: Jack Canty, Margaret Trounce, Frank Conroy, Brian Munn, Shelia Fay, Barry McNamara, Mary Duffy, Gerard Toohey, Alice McTigue, Peter Molloy, Laurie Flynn.

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, Evelyn Farrugia and Pat Burvill.

Baptisms: We pray for Katie Lee Muscat, daughter of Mathew and Mikala, and Dakota Maeve Dickson, daughter of Hugh and Jordon, who will be baptised this Sunday in St Patrick's Church Gordon. We welcome them into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Pope's intention for April – for the role of women: *Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. Lord, hear us.*

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Universal Church celebrates Vocation Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This is an opportunity for all to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. "Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35–38). We remember young women and men throughout our country and diocese and pray they may be open to hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to marriage, the single life, the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul invites parishes to acknowledge the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat at Masses on the weekend of **April 27-28**. He has invited schools to mark the anniversary during the week of April 29 to May 3, coinciding with Catholic Education Week which was brought forward for the occasion. Resources are being provided to parishes for inclusion in Masses on this weekend.

A snapshot of our Ministry District Parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon

Total Population

| | |
|--|--------|
| Ballarat East (& Buninyong) | 31,686 |
| Bungaree (& Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown) | 1,756 |
| Gordon (& Ballan & Springbank) | 6,197 |

Catholic Population

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Ballarat East (& Buninyong) | 7,095 (22.4%) |
| Bungaree (& Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown) | 638 (35.7%) |
| Gordon (& Ballan & Springbank) | 1,871 (30.3%) |

Sunday Mass attendance in 2023

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ballarat East (& Buninyong) | 230 |
| Bungaree (& Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown) | 40 |
| Gordon (& Ballan & Springbank) | 106 |

Baptisms in 2023

| | |
|--|----|
| Ballarat East (& Buninyong) | 84 |
| Bungaree (& Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown) | 6 |
| Gordon (& Ballan & Springbank) | 30 |

In last weekend's Combined Newsletter, Fr Justin provided an update on the formation of a **Ministry District** across the three parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon and the eight local Church and School communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank.

CDF

5.35% p.a. 12-month term investment

5.05% p.a. 6-month term investment

By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable.

It's a way to save while doing good.

Call 1800 134 135 or visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.

GOSPEL

Jn 10: 11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

21 APRIL 2024

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the recurring themes in Acts is that of the apostles and disciples being ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’ which, in turn, finds expression in the boldness of their speech. As Peter addresses the rulers and elders, we observe his boldness in answering their query concerning the healing of a disabled person. Peter qualifies that he does this ‘in the name of Jesus Christ the crucified one whom God raised.’ He acknowledges that his power and authority come from God through Jesus Christ. He acts in the name of Jesus Christ; he heals as he did. His actions, and not just his words, are testament and witness to the one whom God raised.

The Gospel of John speaks of Jesus as the good shepherd, ‘the one who lays his life down for his sheep.’ This image of Jesus contrasts with that of the shepherds mentioned in the Old Testament who were bad leaders who led the people of Israel astray. It also interacts with New Testament writings that warn of false shepherds. Jesus, the good shepherd, can be trusted. He is the Son of God and not a hired hand. The focus of the passage is on Jesus as the one who laid down his life freely. In John’s account, we hear that Jesus has the power to take up his life again. This is possible, Jesus says, as it is ‘the command I have been given by my Father’ and it offers strong assurance of God’s power in Jesus, of his complete trust in the love of God and his own love for his sheep.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Acts 4: 8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: ‘Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PS

Ps 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29. R. v. 22

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. (or Alleluia!)

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, / for his love has no end. / It is better to take refuge in the Lord / than to trust in men: / it is better to take refuge in the Lord / than to trust in princes. **R.**

2. I will thank you for you have given answer / and you are my saviour. / The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord / is he who comes. / We bless you from the house of the Lord; / I will thank you for you have given answer / and you are my saviour. / Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; / for his love has no end. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10: 14

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; / I know my sheep, and mine know me. / Alleluia!