

# Fifth Sunday of Easter (B): 27/28 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): ☎ 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	Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth: ☎ 5368 1015	<a href="http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au">www.sballan.catholic.edu.au</a>
	St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Mr Paul McDowell ☎ 5368 9495	<a href="http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au">www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au</a>

### Collections from last week

Presbytery	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
Financial Yr to Date: \$31178.15			

**Mid-Week Mass at Ballan:** As Fr Matt is away this week there will be no mid-day mass. Instead, the prayer service will be held this Thursday at 10.30 am.

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

### Parish Confirmation Program – Update:

Welcome to the children and families at Masses in Gordon and Ballan, enrolling in the Confirmation preparation this

weekend. Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday at 10.30am Mass in Ballan, May 19th.

**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, call Aileen at the parish office (currently located at the Bungaree parish office, Bungaree Presbytery (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)

Parish Schools	St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill	Principal: Clare Scanlon ☎ 5334 5280	<a href="http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au">www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au</a>
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### Presbytery last fortnight, Parish last month

Presbytery:	\$ NA	Parish:	\$NA
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### 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.

**Safeguarding Matters:** The Professional Standards Office is organising a 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 containing your username and password. If you have any questions or require assistance in obtaining or updating your Working with Children registration, call Aileen at the parish office.

**Do you wish to receive the Combined Newsletter by email every week?** If so, ring the Parish Office on 5334 0450 and leave your contact details.

MASS DATES & TIMES	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY
<b>27/28 April 2024</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31; 1 Jn 3: 18-24</b>	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Pat Prendergast	Helen Mahar
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jayme Naeff	Mark and Sue Conlan
<b>4/5 May 2024</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4: 7-10</b>	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan	
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Julie Dargan/Jim Leahy	Rosemary & Michael Canavan
<b>11/12 May 2024</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1: 1-11; Eph 1: 17-23</b>	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan

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
Saturday 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarkes Hill	Springbank
Sunday 8.45am, 9am*	Gordon*	Bungaree	Gordon*	Gordon*	Bungaree
Sunday 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:** John McRory (former Parish Priest of Gordon, 1974), funeral Mass at St Patrick's Gordon on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm. John will then be buried in the Gordon cemetery with his wife Anne, who died in 2016.

**Anniversaries:** Brenda Jones, Len Maher, Kath O'Keefe, Frank Calleja, Kathleen (Kath) Toohey, Johanna Corbett, Jessie Baynes, Giuseppe Spataro, Sheila Patmore, Kath Maloney, Teresa Fogarty, Jeffrey Micallef and Reginald (Reg) Haintz.

**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.

**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.*

## Acknowledging 150 Years of the Diocese of Ballarat

### *Community, Remember, Revitalise, Hope*

Across the Diocese this weekend, parishes will acknowledge 150 years since the Diocese of Ballarat (and Sandhurst) were created on March 30<sup>th</sup> 1874. In 1844 the first Mass had been celebrated in Port Fairy, the first in what would become the Diocese of Ballarat. Archbishop Polding (Sydney) visited Portland in November 1844.

In 1848, James Alipius Goold was appointed Bishop of Melbourne – the Diocese had two churches, Melbourne and Geelong and a Chapel at Portland. In October 1851 the first Mass in the Ballarat district was celebrated by Fr Patrick Dunne at Brown Hill in a borrowed tent. In 1872 the Sisters of Mercy made a foundation in Warrnambool.

In March 1874 when the Diocese of Ballarat was created, Michael O'Connor, a Parish Priest in Rathfarnham (Dublin) was appointed the First Bishop. With the creation of the Diocese, the following 11 parishes, established as parishes of Melbourne, were transferred to the Ballarat Diocese: Portland (est. 1847), Port Fairy (est. 1849), Warrnambool (est. 1853), Colac (est. 1853), Ballarat St Alipius (est. 1852), Hamilton (est. 1856), Ararat (est. 1858), Maryborough (originally Carisbrook est. 1859), Creswick (est. 1861), Inglewood (est. 1865), Mortlake (est. 1869).

Since 1874, many churches, parishes and schools were opened and many religious orders arrived. Across our Ministry District this included the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy to Ballarat East (from Warrnambool) in 1881, the creation of the Parish of Bungaree in 1890 and the arrival of the Diocesan Sisters of St Joseph to Bungaree in 1891. In 1980, the Parish of Gordon with the communities of Ballan, Mt Egerton and Springbank) was transferred from the Archdiocese of Melbourne to Ballarat. The foundation stone for St Patrick's Church Gordon was blessed by Bishop Goold on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872, with Gordon becoming a parish in December 1875.

Catholic Schools have been a feature of the Church in Australia with 2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic school in Victoria opened in Portland in May 1849. The early Catholic schools were all staffed by lay people. St Alipius Primary School first opened its doors to the children of the Ballarat East goldfields on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1853 – the 13<sup>th</sup> non-government school formally registered in the state of Victoria. There had also been a Catholic school at Buninyong in the early 1850's. St Agnes School at Ballan opened in 1858 until 1863 when it was destroyed by fire. At Springbank (Ormond) a Catholic school was built in 1865.

150 years since the creation of the Diocese of Ballarat, from the Murray to the Sea, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history.



**GOSPEL**

Jn 15: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in me that bears no fruit  
he cuts away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit he  
prunes  
to make it bear even more.  
You are pruned already,  
by means of the word that I have spoken to  
you.  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,  
but must remain part of the vine,  
neither can you unless you remain in me.  
I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty;  
for cut off from me you can do nothing.  
Anyone who does not remain in me  
is like a branch that has been thrown away  
– he withers;  
these branches are collected and thrown on  
the fire,  
and they are burnt.  
If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask what you will  
and you shall get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you  
should bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

28 APRIL 2024

‘MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME’

The juxtaposition of the story of Saul (Paul) in the first reading from Acts with the image of Jesus as the vine in the Gospel speaks to the formation of disciples of Jesus. In Acts we have a glimpse into the beginnings of Saul’s (not yet called Paul) ministry who, with all the zeal of his experience of the risen Christ, joins the believers. Barnabas takes him under his wing. Trouble erupts with the Hellenists and Paul is whisked away from Jerusalem to his hometown to where he contemplates his call.

When we then hear the Gospel’s beautifully elegant description of the vine and the branches we can connect with the formation of the disciples and discern our own call. The clear instruction is ‘to make your home in me’, to make our home in Jesus. It is a symbiotic relationship just like the vine and its branches. We need to remain/abide in Jesus to bear fruit. No matter our zeal, our life of faith and ministry grows and flows from Jesus. This is further enriched by the words of the second reading from the First Letter of John where we hear that ‘our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active’. We are to live the life God wants, to love one another and live in God.

Vines and their fruit are no stranger to us here in Australia, so we take time to reflect on this image to see how closely we abide in Jesus the vine.

**Dr Rosemary Canavan**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 9: 26-31

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

*He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)**

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / ‘These things the Lord has done.’ **R.**



**SECOND READING**

1 Jn 3: 18-24

**A reading from the first letter of St John.**

*His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.*

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God’s presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 15: 4-5

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!**