

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B): 4/5 May 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, Assistant Priest: Fr Matt Restall - ☎ 0492 903 409
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 last fortnight to 30th April

Presbytery	\$816.10	Parish:	\$320.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$31498.15			

Easter Dues: \$22.00

Thank You: We sincerely thank all parishioners who give so generously to these collections.

Mid-Week Mass at Ballan: Mass this Thursday, May 9th at 10.30am.

Parish Confirmation Program – Update: Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday at 10.30am Mass in Ballan, May 19th.

Mass Count:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting is to begin this weekend (**4-5 May**) and continue each weekend until the end of May. Counting forms will be placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed form/s must be returned to the Parish Office by the end of the month.



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH ~ BUNGAREE

St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree
Parish Priest: Fr Justin Driscoll. Assistant Priest: Fr Matt Restall~ ☎ 0492 903 409
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): ☎ Mobile: 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
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Presbytery to April 30th, Parish to April 30th

Presbytery:	\$903.20	Parish:	\$330.00
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Easter Dues: \$90.00

Thank You:

We are very grateful to all our parishioners for their contributions to these collections.

Mid-week Mass:

Fr Justin will celebrate mass at St. Michael's Bungaree on Friday, May 10th at 9.30am.

Mass Count:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting is to begin this weekend (**4-5 May**) and continue each weekend until the end of May. Counting forms will be placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed form/s must be returned to the Parish Office by the end of the month.

MASS DATES & TIMES	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY
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
11/12 May 2024	Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1: 1-11; Eph 1: 17-23	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan
18/19 May 2024	Pentecost Sunday	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds	
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Rosemary Canavan	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka

LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES					
	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th 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: Fr Tom Brophy, Ian Chandler and Nick Moore

Fr Tom Brophy Funeral Mass Mass celebrating entry into eternal life For Fr Tom Brophy will be celebrated on Monday, May 6th at 10.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Burial will follow at the Ballarat New Cemetery. Rosary will be recited on Sunday evening, May 5 at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Livestream link Funeral <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1XY3pjf9z0>. Burial is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17ebPR80EK8>

Anniversaries: Mary Howard, Merv Howard, Patrick Leonard, Carole Steenhuis, Katheleen Gleeson, Helen Ronan, Jack McGuigan, Carmel McAloon.

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 Lilly May and Bonnie Ray Schwarzenberg, daughters of Anthony and Nicola, and Sage Alice Keith, daughter of Christopher and Emma who will be baptised this Sunday in St Brigid's Church Ballan. We welcome them into our faith communities. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Parishes of Bungaree and Gordon - Safeguarding Matters Update

The Professional Standards Office has forwarded by email an invitation to all volunteers in the parishes of Gordon and Bungaree to complete a Safetrac online course. If you have received an email for this training, can you please complete the Safetrac training module before the closing date. The Parish Office will be contacting those volunteers who have email addresses but have not yet received an invitation, to assist them in their registration for the Safetrac training module.

The Parish Office will also invite volunteers who do not have an email address or cannot complete the Safetrac training module online to attend a special session/s, most likely during late May. Dates and venues to be confirmed soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, call Aileen at the Parish Office on 0492 903 409.

Leadership across the three Parishes of our Ministry District

Each of the three parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon have Parish Leadership structures to foster participation, collaboration, and consultation.

Ballarat East has both a Parish Pastoral Council and a Finance Committee. The members of the Pastoral Council are Martin McGettigan (chair), Teresa Fletcher (Finance Committee liaison), Diane McKeegan, Greg O'Beirne, with Mark Hogbin (Principal of St Francis Xavier Primary), Cathy Prunty (Parish Coordinator), Fr Matt and Fr Justin as ex-officio members. The members of the Finance Committee are Paul O'Beirne (chair), Susan Begbie, Teresa Fletcher, Arnoud Goossens, Brett Holloway, Louise Morris, Greg O'Beirne, John White with Bernadette Prestwood (Finance Officer), Cathy Prunty and Fr Justin ex-officio members. The Finance Committee met on Wednesday May 1st and the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be on Thursday May 9th.

Bungaree Parish has a Leadership Team that serves as both Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. Each of the three communities have two delegates with Damien Ryan (chair) and Chris Frawley from Bungaree, Marty Forbes and Dom Prendergast (Clarkes Hill), Dianne Reynolds and Barry Sheehan (Dunnstown), with Clare Scanlon (St Mary's Clarkes Hill Principal), Fr Matt and Fr Justin ex-officio members. The next meeting of the Leadership team is proposed for Tuesday, May 15th.

The Gordon Parish also has a Leadership Team that serves as both Pastoral Council and Finance Committee with each of the three communities having two delegates with Sue Daly (chair) and Brendan Maher from Springbank, Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), with Jayne Bosworth (St Brigid's Ballan Principal), Paul McDowell (St Patrick's Gordon Principal), Fr Matt and Fr Justin ex-officio members. Leadership Team will meet on Wednesday May 8th.

The Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia decreed that dioceses and eparchies support parishes to establish and strengthen appropriate synodal structures by developing guidelines and providing resources for the flourishing of Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Finance Committees, and other parish bodies. The Plenary Council affirmed that governance in the Catholic Church should be exercised in a synodal manner, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised.

Throughout 2024 as the Diocese of Ballarat acknowledges its 150th anniversary, formation for synodal leadership and governance will be offered, leading to a Diocesan Assembly being held in Ballarat on November 15th – 16th. From the Assembly a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council will be discerned.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another,

as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love

than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know

his master’s business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

5 MAY 2024

THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an edited story of the encounter of Peter and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full episode of Chapter 10. What we have is enough to relate the momentous occasion when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of itself, laying aside any impropriety. More than this, Peter declares that God shows no partiality. It doesn't matter whether Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all the audience, Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, remain in my love.' This invitation to abide or remain in God's love opens the command to love one another which is ever more poignant in light of the inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus calls his disciples 'friends' and no longer servants, indicating the closeness of their relationship, their walking together and their collaboration in the work of Jesus. Yet we know even today there are barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also acknowledges but urges us to find a way forward as a Church. 'Abide in my love' could be our mantra so the love of God is enacted to everyone we meet. How can we seek to be inclusive of all who seek God? How do we develop our ecumenical relationships and outreach to all those whom God desires to be welcomed?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (or Alleluia!)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,

let us love one another

since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,

because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son

so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,

but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.