

# The Ascension of The Lord (B): 11/12 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	<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 last week

Presbytery	\$522.55	Parish:	\$2762.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$34260.15			

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

**Mid-Week Mass at Ballan:** Mass this Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am following the 10am Ecumenical service at Mecwacare Aged Care in Ballan.

**Parish Confirmation Program – Update:** Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday at 10.30am Mass in St Brigid's Church Ballan on May 19th.

### Mass Count

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count commenced last week. Counting will continue each weekend until the end of May. **This week the mass count will be for attendance at Springbank & Ballan.** Counting forms have been 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	<a href="http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au">www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au</a>
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### Presbytery to May 6th, Parish to May 7<sup>th</sup>

Presbytery:	\$291.00	Parish:	\$705.00
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**Easter Dues:** \$60.00

### 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 17th at 9.30am.

### Mass Count:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count commenced last week. Counting will continue each weekend until the end of May. **This week the mass count will be for attendance at St Michael's Bungaree.** Counting forms have 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
<b>11/12 May 2024</b>	<b>The Ascension of The Lord 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
<b>18/19 May 2024</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday Acts 1: 1-11, Eph 1: 17-23</b>	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds	
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Rosemary Canavan	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka
<b>25/26 May 2024</b>	<b>The Most Holy Trinity Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40, Rom 8: 14-17</b>	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Marty Forbes	Joan Powell
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Kelly Hunter and Family

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 ~ <b>Ballarat East 9am</b> ; Buninyong 10.30 am (1st & 3rd & 5th Sunday) Vigil Mass ~ Ballarat East 6pm; Sunday Masses ~ <b>Buninyong 9am</b> ; Ballarat East 10.30 am (2nd & 4th Sunday)					

**Anniversaries:** Arthur Gore, John Ryan, Irene Coulter, Rev. Norbert Olsen, Brian and Nellie Keighrey, Ray Smith, Keith and Doris Eastwood, Eddie Clark, Monica Kelly, Carole Steenhuis, Joan Blood and Barry Torpy.

**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, Pat Burvill, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Ray Broach and Owen Widdison.

**Pope's intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians:** *Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.*

#### **Parishes of Bungaree and Gordon - Safetrac compliance online training**

An invitation has been sent to volunteers to complete the training module, "Creating a Child Safe Organisation". If you have received an invitation, can you please complete the Safetrac training module before the closing date. If you have had problems logging into Safetrac Enrolments, ring Aileen on 0492 903 409 so she can inform Professional Standards. This week 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.

#### **Commissioning for Ministry**

As part of the Diocese of Ballarat acknowledging its 150th anniversary this year, those members of our local Church and Parish communities who engage in particular ministries will be commissioned for their service. Commissioning will take place at all Masses celebrated next weekend on the feast of Pentecost (May 18th – 19th). We will acknowledge those members of our parishes who have responded to the call to particular ministries within our communities and are willing to commit themselves to continued service in the name of our church communities.

Across the Parishes of our Ministry District many parishioners serve through liturgical ministries, others in ministries of pastoral care, outreach, some in ministries of Christian initiation, faith formation and Catholic education, while others in leadership and stewardship. The commissioning also provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude to all who serve in great diversity of ministries, for as St Paul writes *'there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good'* (1 Corinthians 12,4-7).

#### **Celebrating Catholic Education**

At the end of Catholic Education week, the annual Mass and dinner were held at Damascus College where 34 staff members of Catholic Education who have served in Catholic education for 30 years were acknowledged. These included Jane Clark (St Francis Xavier Ballarat East), Jamie Lamb (St Patrick's Gordon), Steven Mifsud (Damascus College) and Cathy Prunty (Damascus College). **The gathering also acknowledged the 17 nominees for the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards in 2024 that included** Caitee Carter (St Alipius Primary), *Tony Haintz (Damascus College)*, Cathy Prunty (Damascus College). Congratulations to Cathy Prunty (St Alipius Parish Coordinator), one of the recipients of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards for her work at Damascus College for *Empowering all to Flourish*.

#### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat – Formation**

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together diocesan clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Diocesan Clergy, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions. Dates are: Swan Hill - June 12; Robinvale - June 13; Horsham - July 28; Colac – July 30; Buninyong - August 4; Warrnambool - August 25. Further details on the format will follow.

far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 28: 19, 20  
Alleluia, alleluia! / Go and teach all people my gospel. / I am with you always, until the end of the world. / Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mk 16: 15-20  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

12 MAY 2024

## WHAT DOES THE ASCENSION MEAN FOR US?

The ascension of the Lord is the pivotal link between Luke's Gospel and Acts – the story of Jesus and the story of the Church. The accounts of the ascension at the end of Luke's Gospel and the beginning of Acts are not exactly the same but the message is clear: 'they' (the apostles/witnesses) are to stay in the city/Jerusalem until clothed with power from on high/receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and, then 'he' (Jesus) was carried up to heaven/lifted up, and a cloud took him out of sight (Luke 24:49-51 & Acts 1:4, 8-9).

The letter to the Ephesians contains the plea 'to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit' and to build up the body of Christ. This is essential as the one who came down is the same one who ascended, who is calling all, whatever their gift, to work together in their ministry until they become mature in Christ.

Mark's account is thought to be a later addition to the Gospel. 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News', – reminiscent of Matthew's account of the commissioning of the disciples – 'to all creation' (v. 15). This message is vital for us to hear in these times of global ecological crisis. After speaking to the apostles, Jesus was taken up and assumed his rightful place at the right hand of God. In every way the ascension affirms the resurrection, Jesus' return to God and the launch of our mission guided by the Spirit.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)**

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Eph 1: 17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven,