

The Nativity of the Lord (Year B): ~ 24/25 December 2020

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON

St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

The Gordon Parish is a supervised, community-led parish ~ Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Lin Bowers, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Aileen Toohey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Tim Delaney

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney Visiting Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409

✉ gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Maintenance: contact Parish Secretary ~ Safeguarding Officer: Lin Bowers

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 Gabrielle Driscoll ☎ 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
St. Patrick's Primary School Principal: Mr Tim Delaney ☎ 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections last weekend

Thanks to all who give generously to each of these collections:

Loose	Presbytery: \$405.65	Parish: \$971.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2019/20:	
Year to Date:		\$21,646

As you may have seen, the Victorian Govt has announced new provisions for religious gatherings. Attendees will still be required to register on entering the Church.

Please note also that there are QR Codes in our three churches to enable you to scan your mobile phone to register.

Counters Needed:

If you are able to assist with counting the Sunday takings, could you please contact the Parish Office for more details - 0492 903 409. Thank you



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

✉ bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Parish Schools St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604 www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$384.50	Parish:	\$470.00
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Victorian Child Safe Standards

These new standards apply to all organisations that provide services for children. Our parish's Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct are available on the parish webpage of the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links.) Parish Safeguarding Officer: Leah Hanrahan.

Sacramental Program

Dear Parishioners,
Due to the ongoing uncertainty and COVID restrictions, it has been decided by Fr Sajan and the Sacramental Team that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be postponed this year. Therefore, new dates for all Sacraments will be planned for similar times next year and all children eligible for the programs will be able to participate.

THE Bungaree Parish offers a Family Based Sacramental Program which is led by the Sacramental Team and supported by the Parish schools, St Mary's Clarkes Hill and St Brendan's Dunnstown. The Sacraments and Eucharist are offered for Children in Year 3 and above. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered for children in Year 2 and above. Therefore, 2021 will look slightly different as there will be multiple age groups participating and we will make adjustments to the programs as necessary. If there is anyone in the Parish Community who would like to join the Sacramental Team or know more information, Please contact the Parish Office on 5334 0450 or email bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or to Sue Prendergast: sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	Please Note
26 / 27 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B) Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2: 22, 39-40	
Clarkes Hill - 6.30pm	As requested	Until we can resume our normal weekend Mass
Gordon - 8.45am	As requested	Timetable, we will call upon volunteers to assist
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	with reading the Scriptures and Prayers
02 / 03 January	The Epiphany of the Lord (Year B) Isa 60: 1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2: 1-12	
Dunnstown - 6.30pm	As requested	of Intercession.
Gordon - 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	
09 / 10 January	The Baptism of the Lord (Year B) Isa 55:1-11 1 Jn 5: 1-9 Mk 1:7-11	
Springbank - 6.30pm	As requested	
Bungaree - 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) in Bungaree at 9.30am – all welcome!

	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	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	(Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am)			

Anniversaries

Fr Stephen O'Rourke, Annie Prendergast, Roy Tynan, Victoria Everett, Gerald Leonard, Marie Graham, Jack Geary, Jim Toohey, Eddie Mullane, Bill Winter, Charlie Mangion, Joe Magnion.

We offer our prayerful support for the sick

Anna Bartaska, Mitchell Prendergast, Michelle Hall, Mary Cassar, Moira Myers, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Alice Gardiner, Stan Mahar, Lore Winter, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary and Anne Micallef.

Welcome - Baptism:

We welcomed into our parish community Nellie Rix (daughter of Travis and Tiarne) who was baptised in Springbank last Sunday. We assure Nellie and her family of our prayerful support.

How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Emailed copies at Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Tubs outside churches.

New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

e-News

The Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Plenary Council Update

In light of the ongoing uncertainty around future COVID-19 restrictions regarding travel and public gatherings, especially social distancing, a decision has been taken for the first Plenary Council assembly to take place using a combination of online and in-person delivery. Read more at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/first-plenary-council-assembly-mixes-in-person-online-format/>

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/read>

Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year.

To donate go to https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687

Thank God for Mass!

Just as lockdown begins to ease and Churches open for prayer and the celebration of Mass, Sue Ellis has produced an



interactive book that will help every family, school and church to inspire children to enjoy the many aspects of this key event in the life of every Catholic. More information available from the diocesan website "Liturgy resources" page.

Advance Notice – dates for 2021:

Rite of Election: Saturday, February 20, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 12.30pm. Mass of the Oils: Monday, March 29 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm.

Ministry & Cleaning Rosters for 2021 are currently being updated. If you wish to be added or taken off the roster, could you please inform the parish member of this. We appreciate all the efforts all parishioners do to make our parish life run smoothly.

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2020

View Bishop Paul's 2020 Christmas Message on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-2020/>. A hard copy is also available to download from the website.

Christmas Wishes

We extend our best wishes for a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas to all parishioners and their families.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all who have managed to keep our parishes running so smoothly through this very challenging year. Again, thank you - we sincerely appreciate all your contributions and efforts.

Also thank you to those who pre booked for all Christmas masses. We realize this was a little inconvenient, however, the whole year has set us many challenges and inconveniences. So again, thank you.

Could all items for the newsletter please be forwarded via email if possible to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, by 2pm. gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au Thank you.



A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

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.
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of

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music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one

thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

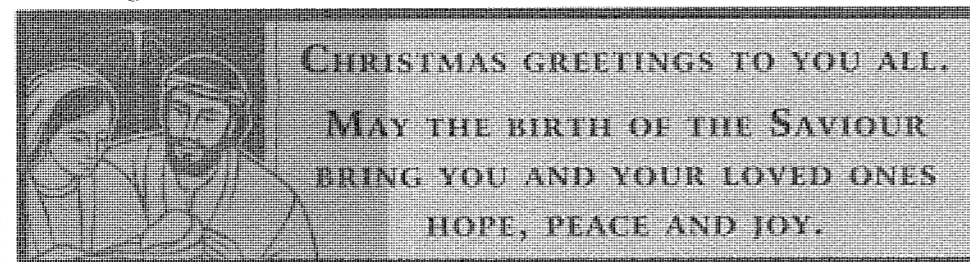
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

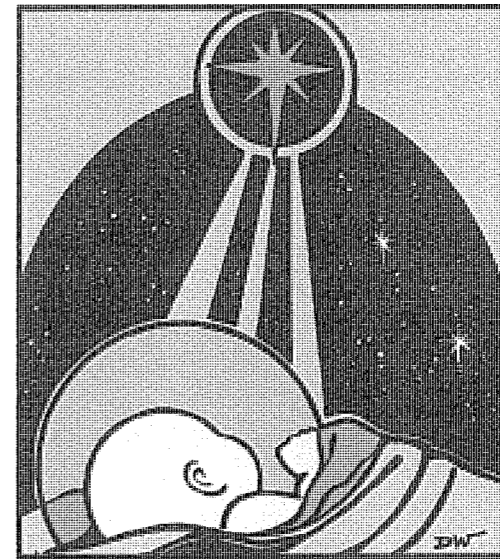
The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PS 95:1-3, 11-13 R. v. Lk 2:11

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. R.

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

SECOND READING Tit 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world:/

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**