

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B): ~ 05/06 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 St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll Principal: Mr Tim Delaney	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend

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

Loose	Presbytery: \$528	Parish: \$135
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2019/20:	
Year to Date:		\$18,493

As you have seen, the Victorian Govt has announced new provisions for religious gatherings. Indoors are now capped at 150 with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sq metres. At this stage, there is no need to pre-book for each mass, but you will still be required **to register on entering the Church**. Masks are still required indoors but may be removed for reading the Scriptures or receiving communion. Please continue the

COVIDSafe practices in these matters until further notice. Only the priest should take Communion from the chalice. Others should receive Communion only in the form of the host. Also, please leave the holy water fonts dry for the time being.

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

Parish End of Year Dinner – Gordon & Bungaree

Once again, we are inviting you to gather as a combined community to celebrate the past year. Details are on the next page – it would be great if you are able to join us



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 St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Principal: Inez French Principal: Inez French	☎ 5334 5280 ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$391.40	Parish: \$915
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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
05/06 December	2 nd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Isa 40:1-5, 9-11	2 Pet 3:8-14 Mk 1: 1-8
Dunnstown ~ 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
12/13 December	3 rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Isa 61: 1-2, 10-11	1 Thess 5: 16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28
Springbank ~ 6.30pm	As requested	of Intercession.
Bungaree ~ 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan ~ 10.30am	As requested	
19/20 December	4 th Sunday of Advent (Year B) 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26 - 38
Dunnstown ~ 6.30pm	As requested	
Gordon ~ 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

Sarah Franklin, Nonie Price, Fr Justin Woodford, Maisie Frawley, George Smith, Doreen Conroy

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.

Baptism Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate the anniversaries of the following baptisms: Oliver Dalton, Henry Cain, Rose Cain (2018), Aillie Sharp, Violette Sharp (2017), Lucy Berens, Austin Attard (2016) and Audrey Montano. We welcome into God's family this Sunday in Gordon Tory Quinlan and to Harry & Max Reynolds who were baptised recently in Gordon.

Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so they may walk in newness of life.

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

Advent Prayer:

Loving and patient God, in the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need Your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes from you alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share.

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>

Happy 2nd week of Advent!



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

Advent Resources

Advent resources are available from the diocesan website. Click on the "Liturgy Resource" tab on front page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Parish of Gordon & Bungaree:

We wish to advise that Debbie Goldie has resigned as Parish secretary of Gordon and Bungaree. We will be sorry to see Debbie leave as she has been a wonderful contributor and supporter to both our parishes. Lin Bowers from the Transition Team will step in as an interim measure to learn the structure and methods to assist in the smooth running of both Gordon and Bungaree Parishes. The position will be advertised in the New Year when hopefully things will get back to some normality. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great contributions that Fran Peterkin has made over the many years she worked in the Bungaree parish office. Thank you to Fran and Debbie for your time with us and we wish you both well– take care and God bless.

Frs Ed Moloney and Sajan Mathew

Parish End of Year Dinner – Gordon & Bungaree

Keep this date – Tues Dec 8 – we will gather at Donegan's Farm, Gordon from 6pm. Cost is \$30 per head and bookings essential via the parish office 0492 903 409

Christmas Mass Times:

Dec 24 – Clarkes Hill – 6pm
(Christmas Eve) Springbank – 6pm
Gordon 7.30pm
Bungaree – 8pm
Dec 25 - Ballan – 9am
(Christmas Day) Dunnstown – 9.30am

(These are the correct times as of this weekend, however restrictions may alter again, so please be aware that some changes may occur going forward)



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.

be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire?

Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

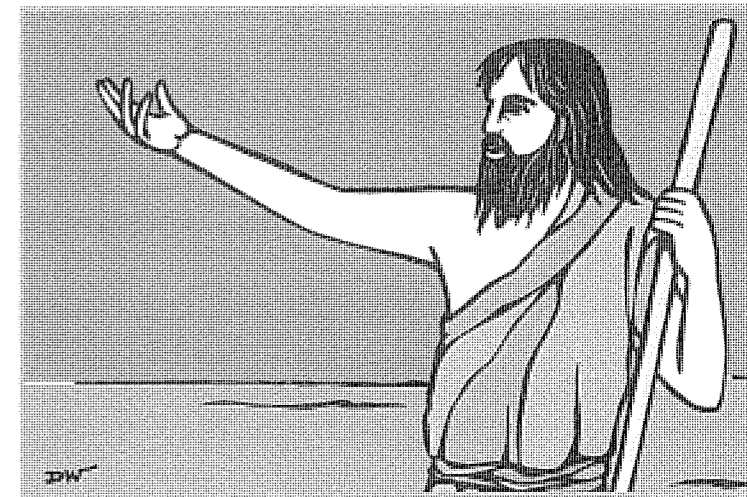
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,/ a voice that speaks of peace,/ peace for his people./ His help is near for those who fear him/ and his glory will dwell in our land. R.



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/ justice and peace have embraced./ Faithfulness shall spring from the earth/ and justice look down from heaven. R.

3. The Lord will make us prosper/ and our earth shall yield its fruit./ Justice shall march before him/ and peace shall follow his steps. R.

SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will

Christopher Monaghan CP