

6th Sunday of Easter (Year A): 13/14 May 2023

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
Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley, Mark Conlan
Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Wednesday/Thursday 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 St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth: Principal: Mr Paul McDowell	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spghordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last week (ending 30 April 2023)

Presbytery: \$539.05	Parish: \$ 3085.90
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Welcome: We welcome Fr Barry Ryan to the Parish of Gordon. Fr Barry will be celebrating mass this Sunday at St Brigid's Church, Ballan at 10.30 am.

Mass at Ballan: Mass this Thursday, May 18th at 10.30am.

Confirmation Preparation: Welcome to the children and their families preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. The children will be dismissed from the 10.30am Mass at St Brigid's Ballan to be led through part of the preparation

in our Family based, Parish Coordinated and Catholic school supported sacrament program. Confirmation will be celebrated at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Ballan on the Feast of Pentecost, Saturday May 27th with Bishop Paul Bird.

Mass Counts from weekend May 6-7 to May 27-28:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count has commenced. 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 forms will be collected after the weekend mass.



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
Parish Leadership Team: Damien Ryan, Barry Sheehan, Dianne Reynolds, Dom Prendergast, Marty Forbes, Chris Frawley & Inez French.
Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Tuesday 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 St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last fortnight:

Presbytery: \$476.00	Parish: \$730.00
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Easter Dues: \$40.00 Caritas: \$20.00

Welcome: We welcome Fr Rupert Bowd to the Parish of Bungaree. Fr Rupert will celebrate mass this Sunday at St Michael's Church, Bungaree at 8.45 am.

Fr Sajan – On Leave: Fr Sajan has returned to India for one month. We wish him an enjoyable holiday with his family and friends. While Fr Sajan is on leave, our regular weekend masses will be celebrated by supply priests.

Please note: No weekday masses will be held at St Michael's Church Bungaree while Fr Sajan is on leave.

Mass Counts from weekend May 6-7 to May 27-28:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count has commenced. 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.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
13/14 May 2023	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3: 15-18		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Margaret Green	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
20/21 May 2023	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11; Eph 1: 17-23		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims and Family	
27/28 May 2023	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Catherine Green	Edith & Tony Paarhammer	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Jill Prendergast	Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month

LITURGIES / WEEKLY MASSES

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Sat 6pm* 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Ballan* Clarkes Hill	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan		Ballan

Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 5 pm ~ Creswick 6.30pm - 1st Sunday ~ Daylesford 6.30pm - 3rd Sunday
 Sunday Masses ~ Creswick 9am - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday; Daylesford 10.30 am - 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday

Anniversaries: Irene Coulter, Rev. Norbert Olsen, Brian Keighrey, Nellie Keighrey, Keith Eastwood, Doris Eastwood, Ray Smith, Mary Smith, Joan Blood, Barry Torpy, Lillian Cullinan, Bill Deveraux, Tom Owens, John Ryan.

We offer our prayers for the sick: Lyla Geary, Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Moira Myers, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, Chaiel Balcombe Jackson, John Healy and Elaine Conlan.

Praying with Pope Francis: Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions encourage faith, renew hope and call us to loving service. The Pope's monthly video forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for May-for church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Lord, hear us.

World Communications Day: May 14, 2023:

The Church in Australia marks World Communications Day on the Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 14 this year. Pope Francis' message for the Day is titled 'Speaking with the heart: The truth in love'. Access Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day and resources at <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/World-Communications-Day-2023>.

Words from Pope Francis: *"Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God's style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters."*

Prayer for Mother's Day

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love.

We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.

We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen



National Volunteer Week: May 15-21, 2023:

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. This week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you and this includes people in our diocese, parishes and agencies. The theme for NVW 2023 is "We are the Change Makers." This campaign celebrates the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, communities and the nation. Go to the Volunteering Australia website for more

information at: <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/national-volunteer-week-2023-resources-now-available/#/>

Catholic Earthcare Australia "Action" online event

Catholic Earthcare Australia is also hosting an online "Action" event. In two hours, participants will engage in ten actions, designed to help bring forth an integral ecology and care for creation. All ten actions are in some way inspired by *Laudato Si'* and can be done from the comfort of your own home. The event will be held over zoom and is FREE! This also will be a wonderful way to join with parishioners all over Australia. Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 4.00pm – 6.00pm AEST.

Bookings are essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/CHVPE>

National Family Week Australia

Family Week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities, and the importance they play in our lives and community. CatholicCare Victoria's theme for Family Week this year is "Circle of Inclusion." Resources from CatholicCare are available at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek>. The National Families Week website is <https://nfw.org.au/>

Thank You from Caritas Australia:

All donations should be forwarded to Caritas before the end of May. Please bring your Project Compassion Box or envelopes to church by next week or contact the Parish Office 0492 903 409 to arrange a collection date.



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 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another
Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my
commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer
see me;

but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.

On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments
and keeps them

will be one who loves me
and anybody who loves me will be loved by
my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

14 MAY 2023

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS

One of the most touching phrases in John’s Gospel is Jesus’ promise before his death that he would not leave his disciples orphans. The quality of his presence among them would change after the resurrection. In the future the Spirit would be the one instructing, strengthening, and protecting disciples. Jesus promises that whoever receives his commandments will be loved by the Father. This promise is fulfilled when the Samaritans become believers through Philip’s ministry of preaching and healing. Samaritans were considered heretical Jews, but their positive reception of the word prompted the Jerusalem community to think again and to send Peter and John to welcome them into the larger community. The gift of the Spirit through the laying on of hands is the sign of God’s blessing and of their full incorporation into the growing Christian family.

The first letter of Peter was written in a time of great trial and opposition. How were Christians going to respond to false charges against them? How were they able to give a credible account of their Christian faith? These early Christians were urged to remain steadfast and true to their values and belief. Like them, we are encouraged to find our source of strength in the example of Jesus who suffered and died for us even though he was innocent. It is not an easy path we are asked to tread but we are encouraged to see that our best defence is the quality of our lives and the depth of our hope.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They laid hands on them, and they received the
Holy Spirit.*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

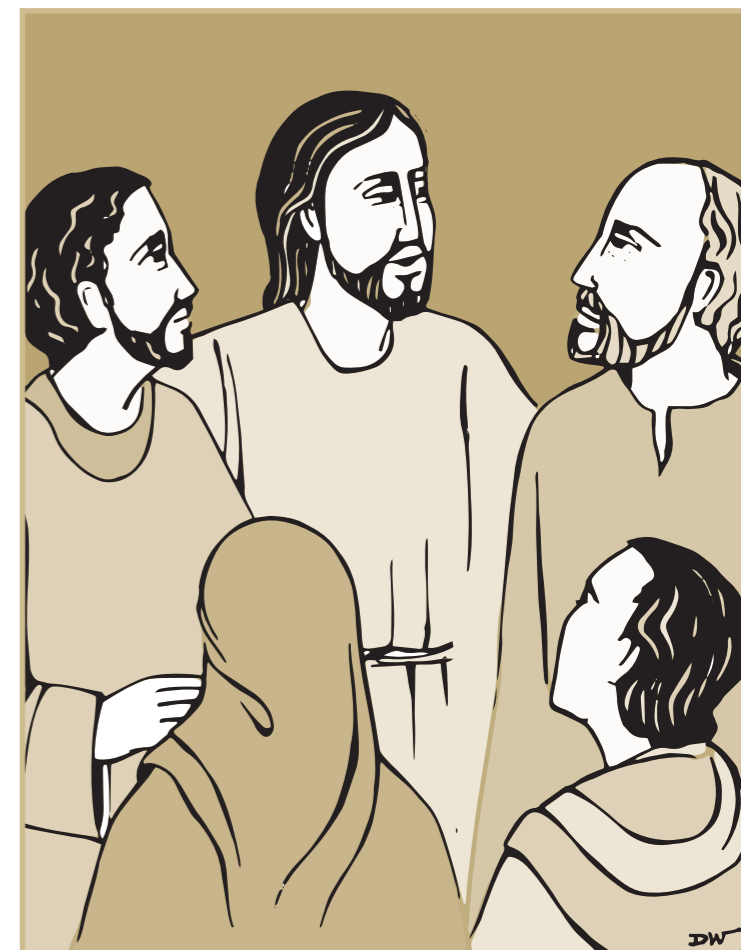
R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (or Alleluia!)

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, /
O sing to the glory of his name. / O render
him glorious praise. / Say to God: ‘How
tremendous your deeds! **R.**

2. ‘Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall
sing to you, sing to your name!’ / Come and
see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds
among men. **R.**

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they
passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our
joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his
might. **R.**

4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will
tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God
who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold
his love for me. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was
raised to life.*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

■ The word of the Lord.