

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

14th /15th December 2024

Our Parishes acknowledge this land's traditional owners & custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, & emerging.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BUNGAREE AND GORDON
 St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree
 St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

Parish Priest: Fr. Justin Driscoll, **Assistant Priest:** Fr Matt Restall
Parish Secretary and Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
 Parish Office attended Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am–2.30pm.
Contacts: 0492 903 409 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Schools & Principals

St. Brigid's Ballan: Mrs Jayne Bosworth 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
 St. Patrick's Gordon: Mr Paul McDowell 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
 St. Mary's Clarkes Hill: Ms Clare Scanlon 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

We are child safe Parishes, committed to safeguarding children, young people & vulnerable adults.

Parish Leadership Teams

Bungaree Parish: Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Ryan & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).
 Gordon Parish: Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

PARISH VISION: That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

Collections

Combined Presbytery (16/17 & 23/24 Nov 24) \$1976.00
Bungaree Planned Giving: November 2024 \$1289.00
Gordon Planned Giving: November 2024 \$5189.60
Gordon Financial Yr 2024/25: (July-Nov 2024) \$16,703.6

Weekday Liturgies

Tues. December 17th 1.00pm St Alipius School Mass
 5.30pm Ballarat East
 Wednesday 18th 11.00am Mercy Place (Anointing)
 Thursday 19th 10.00am Ballan Aged Care
 11.00am St Brigid's Ballan Anointing
 11.30am Ballarat East (Emmaus)
 2.00pm Ballarat East (Anointing)
 Friday 20th 9.30am Bungaree Anointing Mass
 Saturday 21st 9.30am Ballarat East

2024 Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Mercy Place
	5.30pm	Ballan
	6.00pm	Ballarat East
	6.30pm	Clarkes Hill
	7.00pm	Gordon
	7.30pm	Buninyong
	9.00pm	Ballarat East
Christmas Day	9.00am	Dunnstown
	9.00am	Ballarat East

Each of the three parishes in our Ministry District have one less Mass this year than last year – there will not be Christmas Masses in Bungaree or Springbank this year.

MASS DATES & TIMES	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY
14/15 December 2024	Third Sunday of Advent: Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan	
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	Margaret Green	Kelly Hunter and Family
21/22 December 2024	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mic 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Jill Prendergast
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims and Family
28/29 December 2024	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	
Bungaree – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	Michael Ryan	Eddie and Mary Cassar

Annual Christmas cleaning:

Clarkes Hill: Monday, December 23rd at 1.30 pm. Flowers most welcome.

Pre- Christmas Community Gatherings

Dunnstown	Christmas cake and port	Saturday December 14 th	after 6.30 pm Mass.
Clarkes Hill	Port and cake on	Saturday December 21 st	after 6.30 pm Mass
Gordon	Get-together	Sunday December 22 nd	after 9.00am Mass.
Ballan	Cuppa on	Sunday December 22 nd	after 10.30 am Mass.

Recent Deaths: Neville McDermott, Kath Richmond

Anniversaries: Fred Begbie, Anne-Marie (née Steenhuis) Block, Raymond Butler, Jeanette Delbridge, Ronald Graham, Patrick Green, Anne (née Cullinan) Griffith, Monica McDermott, Jessie Robinson, Brian Shanahan, Margaret Toohey.

We offer our prayers for the sick: Ray Broach, Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Thelma Keating, Owen Widdison.

Baptisms: We welcome Freddie Noel Jerram, child of Christopher and Elizabeth, and Cooper James Leighton, child of Peter and Kaelyn, baptised at St Patrick's Gordon, into our faith community.

More From the Diocesan Assembly:

A formal report on the Assembly held at Federation University Mt Helen on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our newsletters for the coming weeks will include reflections from parishioners in attendance as either delegates or facilitators. This week both Chairs of our respective Parish Leadership Teams, Damian Ryan (Bungaree) and Sue Daly (Gordon), offer their reflections on the Assembly.

Damian Ryan (Bungaree Parish), Delegate

Bishop Paul convened the Diocesan Assembly where representatives of Clergy, Catholic organisations and Parishes gathered to contemplate leadership and governance and the future direction of Catholicism in our Diocese. Delegates, in clusters of around 8 people, were challenged to listen intently to each other and to be aware that the Holy Spirit is working amongst us – sometimes as the gentle and peaceful dove and at other times as the bustling wild goose. Change is not always smooth – at times it is challenging and confronting but with a confidence that Catholicism will continue to flourish albeit differently. Future practices and direction are to be determined in the spirit of synodality – that is, journeying together as the People of God – it is a way of listening to each individual to understand how God might be speaking to us.

Sue Daly (Springbank, Gordon Parish), Delegate

In the lead up to the Assembly my preparation included participation in a formation session convened at Our Lady Help of Christians in Wendouree, and attendance at two zoom meetings with the table group that I had been assigned to.

Key reflections from my involvement with the Assembly include:

1. Change is upon us – in considering our future we have a choice:
 - to be passive recipients of traditional patriarchal decision-making processes of the church OR
 - we can respond to the invitation from Bishop Paul to engage, contribute and establish a culture change characterised by co-responsibility, participative governance and a shared sense of 'servant leadership'.
2. A practical outcome discussed at the table I participated in was the formation of a Diocesan Council of Lay Leadership, established as an integral component of the Diocesan leadership and governance ecosystem. This Council could provide:
 - a support network for lay leaders from each of the parishes across the Diocese
 - an opportunity to learn from one-another as we individually tackle the challenges of the future
 - an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing emerging challenges
 - a space for formation sessions in lay leadership
 - sharing of resources between parishes and ministry districts
 - a focal point for sharing of key personnel across parishes and ministry districts
 - input to role expectations of priests with a focus on their spiritual and sacramental priorities, while contributing to a shift away from administrative functions
3. What would success look like? To my mind - if we make solid progress in transforming leadership and governance in our Diocese over the next 5 years we could establish a reputation across Australia as a flourishing space for faith development and spiritual growth.