

## 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	<a href="http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au">www.sballan.catholic.edu.au</a>
	St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Mr Tim Delaney	☎ 5368 9495	<a href="http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au">www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au</a>

### Collections last weekend

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

Loose	Presbytery: \$	Parish: \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2019/20:	
	Year to Date: \$11,911.00	

### Parish Update

We hope you are all keeping safe, well, warm and connected to our parish. There has been some easing of the Victorian Government's COVID-19 restrictions in regional Victoria, which is fantastic news. Unfortunately as far as masses go, we are still unable to celebrate mass and church gatherings indoor. This

means our churches are closed with no masses until further notice from the Victorian Government. All going well, we will be able to meet for masses very soon. We will be informed at a later by the Victorian Government when these changes will take place. There are exceptions for funerals and weddings. The Parish Leadership Team are still meeting via zoom every fortnight. We're not making any major decisions, just ensuring that the Parish is running smoothly, dealing with the Gordon Parish finances and addressing pastoral needs within our parish community. Hopefully we can gather together as one community soon.

## 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	<a href="http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au">www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au</a>
	St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Principal: Inez French	☎ 5334 7604	<a href="http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au">www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au</a>

### Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$	Parish: \$
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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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (follow parish links.) Parish Safeguarding Officer: Leah Hanrahan.

### Sacramental Program Up-Date

The Bungaree Sacramental Program was set to start in early June, however due to the restrictions during this COVID-19 time, in consultation with Fr Sajan, the following decisions have been made:

- The Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will be postponed till 2021. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be able to receive those sacraments then. Dates will be decided later in the year.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will still go ahead this year, at this stage. Any children who have not received this Sacrament and are in Year 2 or above,

are eligible for this program. The Parent Meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 and the Retreat Day & Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct these to The Bungaree Parish Office via email:

[bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or to Sue Prendergast: [sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

### Position of Principal of Bungaree Parish Schools

I am pleased to announce that I have accepted the selection panel's recommendation to appoint Mrs Inez French as Principal of St Mary's and St Brendan's, commencing immediately. Bishop Paul has ratified Inez's appointment.

We congratulate Inez on her appointment to this position and we wish her every blessing as she continues to lead St Mary's and St Brendan's in the coming years.

Fr Sajan Mathew.

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	COMMUNION MINISTER	Other
<b>THERE WILL BE NO MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</b>				

LITURGIES

**There will be no masses until further notice**

	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
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)			



**Recent Death**

Jan Quinlan

**Anniversaries**

Francis Forbes, Marguerite Eddy, Mary Wheelahan, Cornelius Mahar, Maureen Ann Mullane, Josie Tudor, Sr Patsy Ford S.R.M., Christine Ann Dent, Fred Tudor, Kevin Mahoney and John Azzopardi.

**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, Anne Micallef and Clare Adriaans

**Baptism Anniversaries**

This month, we celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptism: Lincoln Bradley Tippet (2018)

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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Emailed copies at [Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Tubs outside churches.

**Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has issued information regarding gatherings in places of worship now that restrictions have eased in regional Victoria. All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**New Diocesan Website**

The new diocesan website is now live at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Plenary Council Update**

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. It is different than we could have expected; the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is so important.

**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of September we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Prayerful & Eucharistic?** Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. You can read the discernment paper at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. We welcome any comments you have. Please send through to [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Mission Sunday Appeal - The joy of the Lord is our Strength! Nehemiah 8:10**

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 18 - a special day, called by Pope Francis, when we are called to pray and offer material support to the work of mission around the world. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope and practical support to live a

fulfilling life. You can support: online at [www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia); or by placing your donation in the Appeal Envelopes (these will be placed in the tubs outside the churches and they will be available at masses if churches are open ); or by Texting GIVE to 0488 854 436. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.

**Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar:**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. When: Sunday, October 4 2.00pm – 3.00pm. More information and registration at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

**It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!**

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in honour of Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study**

Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle which begins October 18. More information at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Season of Creation: September 1 – October 4, 2020**

Season of Creation 2020 continues with prayer resources, liturgical resources, Global Catholic Climate Movement reflection videos, resources to host online prayers, outdoor services and retreat. An App can be downloaded for Ignatian meditations, prayers and resources to reduce your eco-footprint. While October 4<sup>th</sup>, St Francis of Assisi Feast day heralds the end of the Season of Creation season, the Laudato Si Anniversary year continues with ongoing activities to celebrate the Jubilee for the Earth. Resources are available at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/catholic/>

**Engaging Your Catholic Faith**

Engaging Your Catholic Faith is a series of short sessions offered online by Catholic Theological College lecturers on a range of topics including theology, scripture, pastoral studies and spirituality. Sessions will be held from September 14 - October 31 and will cost \$20 per session. The 90 min sessions are held via Zoom from September 14 - October 31. Cost \$20/session. More information and enrolment [www.ctc.edu.au](http://www.ctc.edu.au)

All notices for weekly bulletin need to be submitted by 3.00pm Wednesday at [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) THANKS

you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

04 OCTOBER 2020

## THE SONG SUNG OVER THE CHURCH

Jesus probably told the parable of the Tenants against the religious leaders in Jerusalem in his day. Having resisted the prophets sent by God, they are now resisting the last of them, namely, himself. As such they have shown themselves to be usurpers, retaining for themselves the 'vineyard' (Israel) and its 'produce' (the life of the people). For them, the arrival of the Kingdom (of God) will mean dispossession and retribution.

The early Church retold the parable in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, and a belief in his status as God's Son. Also present is a bitter awareness of the *No* given to the Gospel by the bulk of Israel and a sense of the Church itself, made up of Jews and non-Jews, as the community of the Kingdom. Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord (Matthew 28:20), the community can and ought to produce the 'fruits' that God desires.

The long and tragic history of Christian intolerance and persecution of Jews calls for sensitivity in handling texts like this that reflect the early Church's disappointment with Israel. Today we should move on from Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense to concentrate upon the 'fruits' that God looks for from us. God has made the 'rejected stone'—the crucified and risen Lord—the 'cornerstone' of the Church. The question for us is whether the 'song' sung by God over this new vineyard (cf. the First Reading) is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, perhaps, a bit of both. In either case it will be a song of love.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

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## FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

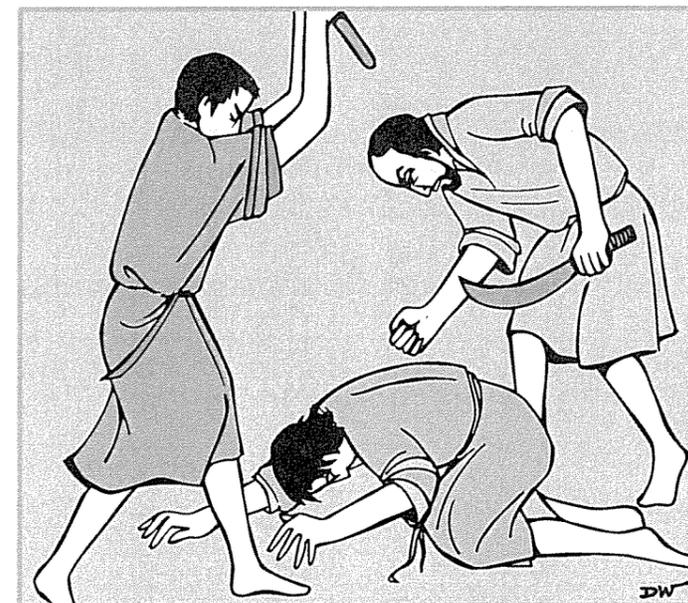
■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

### R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. R.



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. R.

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. R.

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. R.

## SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*  
There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that

*Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): ~3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
October 2020*



**Family Prayer**

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Lord Have Mercy  
Christ Have Mercy  
Lord Have Mercy

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who in the abundance of your kindness  
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,  
pour out your mercy upon us  
to pardon what conscience dreads  
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

**Readings**

(Refer to front of the newsletter)

**First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah Isa 5:1-7**

**Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians, Phil 4:6-9**

**Gospel:**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 21: 33-43**

**Silence**

**Homily**

A form of the parable of the wicked tenants is found in each of the synoptic gospels. It may be that the original story has been lost because by the time it found its way into the gospel tradition it had been “allegorised”. Simply put, an allegory is a story in which different elements are identified as having a specific meaning. This contrasts with the most authentic parables where it is an unexpected ending that discloses meaning and generates insight. In today’s version of the parable it is clear that we are intended to see the landowner as God, the vineyard as Israel, the servants as prophets, the tenants as the Jewish authorities, and the son as Jesus. It is crucial to remember where in the gospel narrative this story appears. Jesus has already entered Jerusalem for the last time and the conflict between him and the religious leaders has become intense and irreversible. We must also be mindful of the role this story plays in later years as the Christian and Jewish communities begin to part company and see themselves as rivals.

The parable begins by drawing directly on the first verses of the reading from Isaiah. Later on it cites verses from Psalm 117/118 that are used in several places in the New Testament to shed light on Jesus' death and resurrection (see 1 Peter 2:7 and Ephesians 2:20 for example).

It is strange that the gospel reading does not go on to include the two verses that bring the chapter to a close (23:45–46). They spell out the reaction of the religious authorities to these parables of Jesus. We never hear them read on a Sunday or major feast.

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**READER: Paul encouraged the Philippians not to worry but to pray with peace and thanksgiving. In that spirit let us place all our needs in God's loving hands.**

**READER:** For Pope Francis, that his appeal for a new spirit of human solidarity will be welcomed around the world.

Lord, hear us.

**READER:** For all creatures of the earth, that they will praise and glorify God in the spirit of Francis of Assisi

Lord, hear us.

**READER:** For the government and its advisors crafting this week's federal budget, that they will do justice to those who are most needy and disadvantaged.

Lord, hear us.

**READER:** For our Parish community, that we will be a vineyard producing good fruit for the kingdom of God

Lord, hear us.

**READER: Mighty and merciful God, you have made us living stones built on the foundation that is Christ. May we be a house of prayer and peace for all people.**

**Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

**Amen**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in whom there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis; grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; watch over all medical people as they tend the sick and work for a cure; stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**