

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A): 18/19 March 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 (Tuesdays 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.sbballan.catholic.edu.au www.spagordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last week

Presbytery:	\$587.40	Parish:	\$777.00
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Dismissal Mass 19th March at Ballan: Due to the Ballan Autumn Festival, there is a change of venue and time for this Sunday's Dismissal Mass. It will now be held at St Brigid's Ballan at **8.45 am** (not Gordon).

Ballan Mass: Fr Justin will celebrate mass at St Brigid's this Thursday, March 23rd at 10.30 am. The Lenten Biblical formation with Rosemary Canavan will be held after mass. All are welcome.

Anointing Mass: An anointing mass will be held on Thursday, 30 March at **10 am** at St Brigid's Church.

Request for Assistance: During mass on Sunday 5th March, a member of our Planned Giving Program donated \$50 to the parish. However, no identification /reference number was written on the Planned Giving envelope. If this was you, please contact Aileen at the Parish Office, so that your contribution can be recorded correctly.

Change of mass times – 19th March: Due to the Ballan Autumn Festival this Sunday, mass at St Brigid's will be held at 8.45 am. Inglis and Steglitz St will be closed from 9 am to 5pm. Mass at St Patrick's will be held at 10.30 am.

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

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 (Thursday 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:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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School Enrolments: Enrolments are now open at St. Brendan's, Dunnstown and St. Mary's, Clarkes Hill. Please contact the schools for a personalised tour. All welcome!

Bungaree Sacramental Program: Reconciliation is offered for Year 2 children and older and children from Year 3 upwards are invited to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Acceptance of children to the 2023 Sacramental program is now closing. Please ring or email St. Mary's, Clarkes Hill and leave your phone

number, child's name, age and let us know which sacrament/s they will be preparing for and receiving this year. Ph 53345280 or email-
principal@smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Diocesan e-News: The diocesan e-News has been published with stories of news and events in the diocese. Go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/> The Pastoral Office invites parishioners to forward ideas for articles, photographs or stories related to Bungaree parish events (historical and current).

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES	
18/19 March 2023	4th Sunday of Lent 1 Sam 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5: 8-14			
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree	
Ballan – 8.45 am*	Bert Jarvis	Brigit Sims Family	Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree	
Gordon – 10.30 am*	To be Advised		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree	
25/26 March 2023	5th Sunday of Lent Ezek 37: 12-14; Rom 8: 8-11			
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Dom Prendergast		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree	
Ballan – 6.30 pm (new time)	Julie Dargan	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree	
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised			
1/2 April 2023	Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord Isa 50: 4-7; Phil 2: 6-11			
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass	
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Eskdale Family	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 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarks Hill / Ballan	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan		Ballan
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ 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: Roy Britt, Andrew Barbara, Peter De Spirt, Harry Wise, Joseph Micallef, Mary Winter, Joseph and Antonia Spiteri, Renee Barbara, Helen Kuczynski, Brian D'Arcy, Jack Ford, Joseph Cini, Doreen Torpy, Mona Nihill, Des Frichot, Joan Shanahan.

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 and John Healy.

Baptisms: We pray for Tyson Joshua Harbour, son of Daniel and Jacqueline, and Leo Patrick McKew, son of Ryan and Catherine, who will be baptised at St Patrick's Church, Gordon this Sunday, and welcome them into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Praying with Pope Francis: The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. **Pope's intention for March** - For victims of abuse: *We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church. May they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.*

Lenten Biblical formation with Rosemary Canavan: Thursdays after 10.30am Mass in Ballan on 23rd and 30th March. Participants will have the opportunity to explore with Rosemary for the Gospel used at Masses on the following Sunday. All are welcome.

Mass of the Oils 2023: Monday, April 3 at 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Supper will follow in the Hall.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023: Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023. Practice times are Sunday, March 19, Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Project Compassion Third Sunday of Lent – March 18-19, 2023: Every week during Lent, Project Compassion shares with us the experiences of those they have assisted.



Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia, supports young women in the community with practical support like housing and helps mentor the next generation of young people. The work of Baabayn involves initiatives such as a Homework Club, a Young Mums and Bubs program and a youth group. They also provide advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments. With your support, the work of Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers at Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation and help them keep their culture strong for future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. Donation boxes and envelopes available from all churches, call 1800 024 413 or visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion>

Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal: More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to – or started – school this year. For a rising number of their families, it's getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need in order to learn and grow. Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal is needed now more than ever. Go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023>



Pastoral Care Workers (Volunteers): Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for Pastoral Care Workers (volunteers) to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week, and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan on 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Disaster: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him’. The man himself said, ‘I am the man’.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see’. Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you’. The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 9:1-41

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Breaking Open the Word



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

THE SAVING WORD

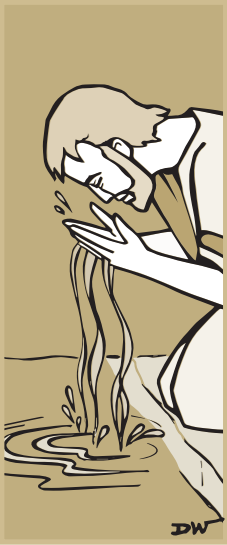
19 MARCH 2023

CHRIST’S TRANSFORMING LIGHT

Learning to read between the lines is not a skill that comes naturally to most of us. Today’s readings show just how difficult and challenging it can be to look into the heart of things to see them as God does. Samuel knew that he had been commissioned to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the new king, but which one? As Samuel is reminded, we tend to look at appearances but God looks at the heart. Ultimately, it is the Lord who will teach Samuel that David is the chosen one.

The letter to the Ephesians invites us to join in the journey of discovering what the Lord wants of us. It requires honesty and trust, to bring ourselves as we are to the light of Christ. While fear might hold us back, there is the encouraging reminder that what is brought to the light of Christ is not condemned, but transformed and turned into light.

The episode of the man born blind is a marvellous example of how difficult and yet freeing, it is to come into the light of Christ. The man gradually moves from seeing Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally coming to believe in him as Lord. He was originally treated as an outsider because of his disability. After being questioned three times, his growing insight and faith lead him to be cast out yet again, but now he is no longer alone; now the Lord stands beside him.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the light of the world, says the Lord; / whoever follows me will have the light of life. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind