

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B): 3/4 February 2024

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; Out-of-hours: 0448 220 685
Leadership Team: Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Nola Kersley & Mark Conlan (Ballan)

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Wed/Thurs 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.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections from last week

Presbytery	\$399.80	Parish:	\$2445.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$26032.3			

Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their generosity.

Mid-Week Mass: Fr Justin will celebrate mass this Thursday, February 8th at 10.30 am at Ballan.

Lenten Gospel Reflection

Once again Rosemary Canavan has generously offered to facilitate Lenten reflection on the Gospels for the Sundays

of Lent - Thursdays February 22nd, 29th and March 7th, 14th and 21st in the gathering area of St Brigid's Church Ballan, following the 10.30am Mass each Thursday.

Sacramental Program 2024

Reconciliation

Parent Information Session: February 21st @ 7pm at St Brigid's Primary School.

Celebration of the Sacrament: March 19th @ 5.30pm at St Brigid's Church, Ballan.



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
Leadership Team: Damien Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown) Dom Prendergast & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill). Ex-Officio Member: 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

Principal: Clare Scanlan ☎ 5334 5280

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Collections to 17 January 2024:

Presbytery:	\$NA	Parish:	\$NA
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Thank You: We thank everyone who turned up last Saturday morning for the working bee at the former Bungaree School. We particularly thank Dom who organized the pick-up truck. Amazing job. Well done.

Liturgy Readers for 2024:

The parish invites interested parishioners, including family groups, to include their name/s on next year's liturgy rosters for St Brendan's Dunnstown, St Michael's Bungaree and St Peter's Clarkes Hill. Please contact Fr. Sajan or any

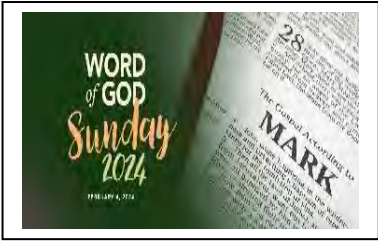
member of the Leadership Team. Alternatively, email the parish office at bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Alert-Emails sent from Parish of Bungaree email address:

The Parish of Bungaree email address was compromised in early January 2024. Several parishioners have received spam emails asking them to verify their contact details, or the contact details of a parishioner, or asking them to open a file to view photos. Please monitor all emails sent from the Parish of Bungaree email - bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au as they may be spams and be alert to any request to open attachments and/or files or click on links.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
3/4 February 2024	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23		
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Gordon - 9 am	To be Advised		Wednesday - 9.30 am Bungaree
Ballan -10.30 am	Winnie Zammit	Bridgit Sims & Family	Thursday - 9.30 am Bungaree
10/11 February 2024	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Deut 18: 15-20; 1 Cor 7: 32-35		
Springbank - 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree - 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan -10.30 am	Rosemary Canavan	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	
17/18 February 2024	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Gen 9: 8-15, 1 Pet 3: 18-22		
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon - 9 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan -10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Mark & Sue Conlan	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, 9am *	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: Archie Campbell, John Ryan, Anthony Jarvis, Gerard Winter, Ron Spedding, Olive Andrews, Robert Leiter, Bernard (Bernie) O’Neil, Nina Cassar, Catherine Torpy, Peter Ross, Ray Frawley, Frank Frawley, Greg Arnel, Margaret Maloney, James Leonard.

We offer our prayers for the sick: Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, John Healy, Elaine Conlan, Lorraine Tipple and Karem Chiparra.

Word of God Sunday: February 4, 2024

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

Message from Bishop Paul:

Hello Everyone,
Following some recent discussions about Covid provisions, I was asked about restoring Holy Water to fonts in our Churches. While we did empty fonts at the height of the Covid pandemic, this restriction seems unnecessary now. Some parishes restored Holy Water to fonts quite some time ago and I fully support this. This makes Holy Water readily available for those who wish to use it. Of course, any parishioner who has concerns need not use the Holy Water from a font. God bless you all. Bishop Paul

Notes about Holy Communion

Bishop Paul issued the following information for people of the diocese last year and this is still relevant:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.
Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.
I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.
In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue. May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another. God bless you all. Bishop Paul

Appointment in the Bishop’s Office: We welcome Fiona Bradley to the part-time position as Secretary in the Bishop's Office. Fiona will be working jointly with Djurdja Klaric in a job share as Secretary in the Bishop’s Office two days a week.

Mass to Launch Project Compassion 2024

Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held on Sunday, February 11 at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the Main Celebrant and will commission Student Leaders as Ambassadors for Caritas 2024. All welcome to attend.



Rite of Election 2024

The Rite of Election will be held on Saturday, February 17 at 12.30pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall. The Rite is an opportunity for adult catechumens and candidates to meet the Bishop prior to being baptised/received into the Church at Easter.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon’s mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’ And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

CELEBRATING THE WORD OF GOD

Today the Church in Australia celebrates ‘Word of God Sunday’. In establishing this day, Pope Francis invited us “to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred scriptures” (*Aperuit Illis*. 30 Sep 2019). This celebration brings our attention to how we engage with the Word in the liturgy, and how we take the Word with us and proclaim it in our daily lives. Today let’s focus on the Gospel.

Mark portrays Jesus discerning his ministry. We accompany Jesus on his journey: having left the synagogue, where he had been teaching and healing, he enters the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John, where he finds and heals Simon’s mother-in-law. By evening as the sun is setting, the word is already out, and people are bringing the sick and possessed to him. Indeed, “the whole city was gathered at the door” (v. 33), and Jesus ministers to them. In the morning, while it is still dark, Jesus goes to pray. Simon leads a search, and when they find him, Jesus declares, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is why I came” (v. 38). What we see in this Gospel passage is the word and deed in action in Jesus, and his discernment through prayer to take his mission out further. Nourished by the Word of God let us pray and discern our mission in our daily lives sharing the Good News beyond our doors.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

4 FEBRUARY 2024

FIRST READING

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man’s life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’
Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver’s shuttle my days
have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 146: 1-6. R. v. 3

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted. or Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; / sing to our God for he is loving: / to him our praise is due. **R.**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem / and brings back Israel’s exiles, / he heals the broken-hearted, / he binds up all their wounds. / He fixes the number of the stars; / he calls each one by its name. **R.**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; / his wisdom can never be measured. / The Lord raises the lowly; / he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 8: 17

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!