

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A): ~ 2nd & 3rd May 2020

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 Pastoral Council: Mick Winter (Chair), Lin Bowers (Secretary)
 Shane Carey, Aileen Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll, Tim Delaney, Marie Shanahan
 Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney Visiting Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew
 Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5368 9280 or 0491 601 162
 ✉ 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 Finance Council Brendan Maher and Dan Toohey

Parish Schools	St. Brigid's Primary School Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll ☎ 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au	St. Patrick's Primary School Principal: Mr Tim Delaney ☎ 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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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:		

Christian Meditation Group - Ballan

Join us online once or twice a week to meditate together. This form of silent, imageless prayer using a mantra or prayer word, is rooted in the gospel and the letters of St Paul and originated with the early Desert Fathers of the 4th century. A Benedictine monk, Fr John Main OSB (1926-1982), rediscovered this ancient prayer tradition for contemporary men and women. Today there are over 2000 Christian Meditation groups around the world. The 40 minute online meeting includes a short reading on meditation by John Main, Laurence Freeman, or other teachers in the Community, 20 minutes of silent meditation, followed by a question-and-answer/discussion period. Anybody is welcome, so feel free to invite friends both Catholic and non-Catholic. For further information please contact
 Miranda Brockman: [0437 682 325](tel:0437682325) or mirandabrockman@gmail.com

Parish Update

As we continue our period of isolation, members of our parish groups, along with Fr Ed and Fr Sajan are continuing to meet each week via Zoom to connect, consult, discuss and support one another through this challenging period. We are conscious of many parishioners who are feeling cut off from our parish community and we are endeavouring to reach out to them in various ways that we are able to. The parish bulletin is available each week either via email or a hard copy which can be found in the blue container at the front of each church. Also with the bulletin are prayers and a copy of Fr Sajan's homily, which we are finding uplifting and gives us a sense of connection. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Reg Haintz last Sunday evening. We extend our very sincere sympathies and prayers to Eileen and the family. Reg was a wonderful supporter of our parish community and served for many, many years on the Parish Finance Committee. God bless you Reg.

Church Cleaning - May

BALLAN	GORDON	SPRINGBANK
	Margaret Mc Tighe and Maree Toohey	Mary Simpson and Donna Simpson



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 Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au	St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604 www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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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 (follow parish links.) Parish Safeguarding Officer: Leah Hanrahan.

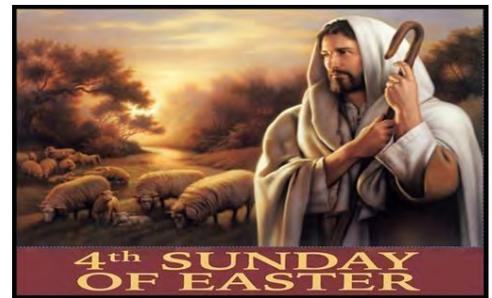


	READER/INTERCESSIONS	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	COMMUNION MINISTER	Other
There will be no masses until further notice				

LITURGIES

There will be no masses until further notice

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th 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 Deaths

Reginald Haintz, Teresa Fogarty and Frank Calleja.

Anniversaries

Helen Ronan, Eddie Clark, Monica Kelly, Carole Steenhuis, Joan Blood, Jack Mc Guigan, Carmel Mc Aloon, Arthur Gore and Irene Coulter.

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, Jan Quinlan, Noel Craven, Patrick Hodgson, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Michael Wise, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary and Clare Adriaans

Baptism Anniversaries

Harvey Joseph Mc Kay, Ruby Jane Miles and Genevieve Joy Prendergast.

How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au for emailed copies.
- Tubs outside churches. Please deliver to those unable to obtain their own.

Our Diocesan Community

The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News and Events"

Links to online Masses in the Diocese

Go to: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and then the COVID-19 link to find various links to online masses being held in the diocese as well as outside of the diocese.

Updates, information, resources and links to online Masses, in light of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Updates from Bishop Paul, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and other agencies is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Continue to check the diocesan website as new resources are being added to this page for people to access during this time of social isolation. There are also links to online Masses within and outside the diocese.

Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A May 3, 2020

Pope Francis tells us, "Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the gaze of God in our lives" (message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020). Let us pray for the young people in our community and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the

COVID-19 pandemic. See attached or go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries - employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

Caritas Online Concert – May 9

On Saturday, May 9, Australian singer, songwriter and musician, Gary Pinto will lead a free online concert for Project Compassion. Gary wrote a song for Project Compassion titled "Walk With Me" this year. He is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. He is urging thousands of school children, teachers, churches and families across Australia during this challenging time, to stand in solidarity with those most vulnerable to COVID-19. You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions. To view the concert, supporters will need to register at livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/.

Plenary Council 2020 Assembly 1 postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plenary Council 2020 Assembly 1 scheduled for October in Adelaide, has been postponed. Read the full media release at <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/first-assembly-of-plenary-council-postponed/>. See a message from Bishop Paul on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Moorabool Shire Council (COVID=19) UPDATE No.1 - Emergency Relief Assistance

Australian Red Cross is supporting Combined Agency Operations Group (CAOG) and Emergency Management Victoria to provide relief (food and water, and psychological support) to community members affected by the COVID-19 social distancing requirements. All enquires and requests for food and essential relief packages should be directed to the COVID-19 hotline **1800 675 398**. Further information at: dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

In line with government directives aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus and the safety measures being undertaken throughout our communities, all places of worship, churches and chapels remain closed until further notice. You can stay connected with your faith through the many links to online Masses above, which are being offered around the Diocese.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

03 MAY 2020

JESUS: SHEPHERD AND GATE

To appreciate today's Gospel and the images it features, we have to understand something of shepherding practices in Palestine at the time of Jesus.

In applying to himself the image of shepherd, Jesus presupposes the intimate knowledge that should exist between a shepherd and his sheep. Sheep from various flocks would be penned up at night in communal sheepfolds. At daybreak, shepherds would come to the gate, call, and gather their sheep to lead them out to pasture. While during the night the sheep were all mixed up together, the shepherd could rely on the fact that his sheep would recognise his voice, separate themselves from the rest, and willingly follow him through the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus contrasts a 'good shepherd' like this with others who come only to steal, harass, and ultimately bring about the loss of sheep that do not belong to them.

Jesus goes on to identify himself with the 'gate' of the sheepfold. This adds a fresh dimension. If the sheep are to flourish, they have to go out each morning and find pasture. Yet, if they do not return to the fold at night, they will be at risk. So daily they have to come and go through the gate. The gate is their means of access to both protection and growth.

As 'Gate' Jesus performs this function for the community. Through continual interaction with him in prayer and worship its members find life and growth.

In this sense he 'has come that they may have life and have it to the full' (v. 10).

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)**

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

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd,
says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine
know me. Alleluia!**

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A): ~ 2nd & 3rd May 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,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
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 Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36–41

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:20–25

Gospel

Silence

Homily

In Year A we hear the first section of chapter 10 of John's gospel. Later sections are used in other years. While today's passage does not use the term "good shepherd", Jesus does present himself as a shepherd who knows his sheep by name and is known and trusted by them.

Along with the image of shepherd Jesus also speaks of himself as the gate of the sheepfold. These are not conflicting or mutually exclusive images. They complement one another to give a fuller picture of the endlessly fascinating figure that Jesus is.

Both images reflect shepherding practice in the Palestine of Jesus' day. Flocks were small, conditions were harsh, and the survival of the sheep depended on the personal devotion of the shepherd to his task. Jesus' audience would have readily identified the implicit reference to the true and false shepherds of the people of Israel (as portrayed, for example, in Ezekiel 34 – a text well worth reading).

For many people the final verse of this reading is a precious gem that crystallises the whole gospel: "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full".

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

READER: As Jesus said to Nicodemus long ago he came to offer the world boundless life. Let us pray for the whole of creation to share fully in this divine gift.

READER: For Pope Francis, chief shepherd of the flock, and all who are pastors in Jesus' name, that they will care for those entrusted to them with life-giving love.

Lord, hear us.

READER: For citizens every where, that they will emerge from the coronavirus pandemic with a new awareness of and commitment to our shared humanity.

Lord, hear us.

READER: For family members unable to grieve together for loved ones who have died, that they will find ways of comforting and supporting one another through this time of loss.

Lord, hear us.

READER: For the recently deceased, especially those who have died from the coronavirus, . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that the risen Lord will shepherd them to eternal life

READER: All-loving God, you sent your Son to lead us to pastures of peace. Keep us close to him until we rejoice for ever at the banquet of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Silence

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

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN