

Third Sunday of Easter (B): 13/14 April 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), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (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.sballan.catholic.edu.au
www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections from last week

Presbytery	\$382.90		Parish: \$712.00
Financial Yr to Date: \$30778.15			

Easter Dues: \$120.00

Thank You: We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of all parishioners for their donations to the pastoral care and maintenance of our churches.

Welcome, Fr Matt: We welcome Fr Matt, our newly appointed Assistant Priest to the Parish of Gordon. Fr Matt

will celebrate the 6.30 pm vigil mass at St Michael's Springbank this Saturday evening, and the 10.30 am Sunday mass at St Brigid's Ballan.

Mid-Week Mass at Ballan: To be advised. In lieu of the 10.30am mass, the prayer group meeting will proceed.

Ballan Mass Times: From the beginning of April, Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am at Ballan **every Sunday**.



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: Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds
(Dunnstown) Dom Prendergast & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill). Ex-Officio Member: Clare Scanlon
Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey. Parish Office (Tues 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 Scanlon ☎ 5334 5280

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery last fortnight, Parish last month

Presbytery:	\$714.00		Parish: \$601.00
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Easter Dues: \$630.00

Thank You: We sincerely thank all parishioners who give so generously to these collections.

Welcome, Fr Matt: We welcome Fr Matt, our newly appointed Assistant Priest to the Parish of Bungaree. Fr Matt will celebrate the 8.45am mass at St Michael's Bungaree this Sunday.

Fr Sajan's Farewell: Thanks to all parishioners from the Bungaree Parish as well as parishioners from the Gordon Parish and friends from neighbouring communities who gathered last Sunday at the Bungaree Recreation Centre to

farewell Fr Sajan. It was wonderful to see so many people join in the celebrations. Special thanks to Damian Ryan, who on behalf of the parishes of Bungaree and Gordon gifted Fr Sajan with a photographic depiction of our churches and presbytery; and to Anne Wade and her assistants for the enjoyable meal. We thank Fr Sajan for his friendship and spiritual guidance over the past four years. We will remember him in our prayers; and send him our very best wishes for the future.

Caritas Lenten Appeal: Thank you for your generous contribution to the Caritas Lenten Appeal held over the Easter weekend and last weekend. Total: \$630.00

MASS DATES & TIMES	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY
13/14 April 2024	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2: 1-5	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis	Bridget Sims Family
20/21 April 2024	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4: 8-12; 1 Jn 3: 1-2	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan	
Gordon – 9 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Lesley Morffew	Tony & Edith Paarhammer
27/28 April 2024	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31; 1 Jn 3: 18-24	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Pat Prendergast	Helen Mahar
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised	
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jayme Naeff	Mark and Sue Conlan



Hands with stigmata

LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Sat 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarkes Hill	Springbank
Sun 8.45am, 9am*	Gordon*	Bungaree	Gordon*	Gordon*	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan
Vigil Mass ~ Ballarat East 6pm; Sunday Masses ~ Buninyong 9am; Ballarat East 10.30 am (1st & 3rd & 5th Sunday) Vigil Mass ~ Ballarat East 6pm; Sunday Masses ~ Ballarat East 9am; Buninyong 10.30 am (2nd & 4th Sunday)					

Recent Deaths: Charlie Franc (Beaufort)

Anniversaries: Andrew Sherry, Peter Molloy, Antonio Zumba, Marie Maher-Graham, John Vincent (Jack) Toohey, Bill Molloy, Jill Fradd, Carmel Fitzgerald.

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, Karem Chiparra, Evelyn Farrugia and Pat Burvill.

Pope’s intention for April – for the role of women: *Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. Lord, hear us.*

Thank You: The Holy Land Collection this year was \$727.85. We thank the parishioners from the Bungaree and Gordon parishes as well as visitors to our parishes who attended the ceremonies at Ballan and Springbank on Good Friday for their generosity.

Easter greetings to all!

From April 10th, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Matt Restall and I to the parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon, forming a **Ministry District** across our three parishes and the eight local Church and School communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke’s Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank. We will work with Cathy Prunty, Natalie Shannon and Bernadette Prestwood in the Ballarat East Office and Aileen Toohey in the Bungaree and Gordon Parish Offices as well as the Principals of our Catholic Schools - Troy Strybosch (St Joseph’s Bakery Hill), Jayne Bosworth (St Brigid’s Ballan), Emily Clarke (St Alipius’ Ballarat East), Mark Hogbin (St Francis Xavier Ballarat East), Clare Scanlon (St Mary’s Clarke’s Hill), Paul McDowell (St Patrick’s Gordon), Ethan Corfee (Emmaus Mt Clear) and Steven Mifsud (Damascus Mt Clear and Dunnstown).

In the Diocese of Ballarat, a Ministry district is the term used in our pastoral planning document **Looking Forward**, to describe the sharing of resources between parishes, with the aim of working in collaboration to further the mission of Christ that has been entrusted to the Church. Our emphasis and focus is on mission, looking forward, outward, with the joy of the Gospel.

Pope Francis, in **The Joy of the Gospel**, dreams “of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation” (#27). He recognises that we need to be in a “permanent state of mission” (25), going out, being always engaged in involving others and being constantly focused on reaching out. The vision of Pope Francis is an outward one and “mission” is at the centre of it.

In this next chapter, our new Ministry district provides us all with an opportunity to exercise genuine **synodality**, that is, walking together in faith, building a culture of encounter and accompaniment, **discerning** the way forward by genuine dialogue, listening to each other with prayerful openness to the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to walking with you as a pilgrim in faith, together as servants of the Gospel, joyful missionary disciples.

Fr Justin Driscoll

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul invites parishes to acknowledge the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat at Masses on the weekend of **April 27-28**. He has invited schools to mark the anniversary during the week of April 29 to May 3, coinciding with Catholic Education Week which was brought forward for the occasion. Resources are being provided to parishes for inclusion in Masses on this weekend.



St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria – Autumn 2024 Newsletter

The latest newsletter from the Victorian St Vincent de Paul Society highlights the importance of the support of Vinnies and how donations impact the work they are doing <https://www.vinnies.org.au/vic/publications/newsletters>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them: 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

14 APRIL 2024

YOU ARE WITNESSES

What was it like in the aftermath of Jesus' death and the joy of the good news of the resurrection? As we hear more accounts and reflections on the resurrection in today's readings, we also understand something of the dilemma of the early witnesses as to how to pass on this experience.

Luke is writing the Gospel and Acts at least 40-50 years after Jesus' resurrection. There are no photographs, no hard evidence, only the testimonies of those who were there.

Today's Gospel opens with the returnees from Emmaus telling their story and then Jesus appearing among them. The Gospel ends reminding the audience 'you are witnesses' (v. 48). It is not only to the first century audience that this is addressed. We too are witnesses. This is the term we find in Acts, the second volume of the Lukan narrative: the apostles, disciples, believers are witnesses. We are witnesses to the faith and belief of those gone before. We cannot touch and see Jesus for ourselves, but we can engage the scriptures. We can see in Luke's account Jesus' appearance among them, speaking to them, taking some food, inviting them to touch him. Luke's comment that Jesus 'opened their minds to understand the scriptures' (v. 45) repeats what was heard by those on the road to Emmaus. It is our reading and contemplation of the Word that deepens our faith and belief as witnesses and calls us forward in the transformation of our lives in the light of the resurrection.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

You killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.'

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 4: 2, 4, 7, 9. R. v. 7

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

(or Alleluia!)

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; / from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **R.**

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; / the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **R.**

3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. / Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **R.**

4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, / for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 2: 1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 24: 32

Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: / make our hearts burn with love when you speak. / Alleluia!