

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A): ~ 9th & 10th 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
St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll ☎ 5368 1015
Principal: Mr Tim Delaney ☎ 5368 9495

www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

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:		

About Laudato Si' Week

Laudato Si' Week honors the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The theme of the week is "everything is connected." This week launches a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow. Following Pope Francis' invitation to join Laudato Si' Week, Catholics everywhere will reflect and prepare for action 16-24 May.

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Parish Update

As we continue into our 8th week of isolation (or thereabouts - seems so much longer!) members of our parish groups, including the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, along with Fr Ed and Fr Sajan and the Transition Team are continuing to meet each week via Zoom to connect, consult, discuss and support one another through this challenging period. We are not making any major decisions as our meetings are just to make sure the Parish is running smoothly, such as paying

accounts and addressing any pastoral needs within our community. As mentioned last week, we are conscious of many parishioners who are feeling cut off from our parish community and we are endeavouring to reach out to them. If you know of anyone feeling this way, could you please let our parish secretary know so that we can follow this up. Of course, please ensure they are perfectly happy for their names to be passed on so that they can be contacted. The parish bulletin is available each week either via email or a hard copy which can be found in a 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. This will end, hopefully one day soon, and then we can all meet again face to face as a faith community to pray, support and worship together. To all our mums, grandmas, nannas, aunties and special ladies wishing you a very happy Mother's Day - it certainly will be a different one, but our thoughts are with you all.

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
St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

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)			

Anniversaries

Barry Torpy, Lillian Cullinan, Bill Deveraux, Tom Owens, James McDermott, Bryan Frawley, Rev Norbert Olsen, Brian Keighrey, Nellie Keighrey, Keith Eastwood, Doris Eastwood, Ray Smith, Mary Smith and Iala Wise.

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

This month, we celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Harvey Joseph Mc Kay, Ruby Jane Miles and Genevieve Joy Prendergast.

Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so they may walk in newness of life.

Blessing for Mothers

Loving God,

as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your Church.

Bless our mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we may always honour them,
and that they may be led one day to eternal life with you.

Amen.

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"

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, links to online Masses within and outside the diocese, and other agencies are available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

COVID 19 Fee Relief for School Families

The Catholic Education Office Ballarat have provided information for families experiencing difficulty paying school fees during the COVID-19 crisis. See the video on their website <https://ceob.edu.au/>

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. He is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions. To view the concert, you 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.

Position Available — Ballarat East Parish Coordinator

Applications are currently being sought for the position of Parish Coordinator. This is a part-time position that ensures the effective operation of the parish office by providing office coordination, reception and administrative assistance. A copy of the position description and application form are available on the St Alipius' Parish website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au Applications close Friday, June 26, 2020.

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.

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.



I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am
going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you
are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus
said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except
through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have
seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and
then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with
you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and
you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from
myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing
this work.

You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for
no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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'IT IS BETTER THAN I GO AWAY ...'

Today's Gospel comes from the long
instruction that Jesus, according to the
Fourth Gospel, gives to his disciples at the
Last Supper. He reflects upon his return to
the Father and what his absence will mean for
the disciples.

Jesus' 'departure' seems to operate on two
levels. The setting of the supper on the night
before he dies makes it natural to understand
'going away' as a reference to his imminent
departure in death; his 'coming back', then,
would refer to his appearance on the third day
as risen Lord.

At another level, however, Jesus addresses a
more permanent 'going away' when, following
his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord,
he finally ascends to the Father (see John
20:17). From this perspective, his 'coming
back' would refer to his return at the end of
time.

At this level the instruction Jesus gives does
not bear upon the short space between Good
Friday and Easter, but upon the indefinite
'time of the Church' that will follow.

During this time – which remains our time – the
disciples will not enjoy his physical presence.
But Jesus insists that it will be a better time
in fact. His death on the cross will defeat the
grip of sin and death upon the human race,
and open up for us the gift of eternal life.

Jesus is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life'
in the sense that his death supremely reveals
the 'truth' about God (that God is love) and
opens up the 'way' to human sharing in God's
(eternal) 'life'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and
wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples
was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint
against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution
their own widows were being overlooked. So
the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples
and addressed them, 'It would not be right for
us to neglect the word of God so as to give out
food; you, brothers, must select from among
yourselves seven men of good reputation,
filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will
hand over this duty to them, and continue to
devote ourselves to prayer and to the service
of the word.' The whole assembly approved of
this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full
of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with
Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,
and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.
They presented these to the apostles, who
prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread:
the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly
increased, and a large group of priests made
their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place
our trust in you. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; /
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks
to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed
lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all
his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice
and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men
but chosen by God and precious to him; set
yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy
priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices
which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to
God, may be living stones making a spiritual
house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion
a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and
the man who rests his trust on it will not be
disappointed. That means that for you who are
believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the
stone rejected by the builders has proved to be
the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to
bring men down. They stumble over it because
they do not believe in the word; it was the fate
in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing
the praises of God who called you out of the
darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the
truth and the life, says the Lord; / no one
comes to the Father, except through me. /
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you
a place,

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A): ~ 9th & 10th 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,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.

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 Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9

Gospel

Silence

Homily

We can thank “doubting Thomas” for the cornerstone of today’s gospel, Jesus’ declaration that he is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. This and what leads up to it may have a familiar ring for many in the congregation. It’s a text that is often read at funeral services.

It begins with words of assurance for the disciples whom Jesus had just disturbed by speaking about betrayal and denial. From this point on, for four full chapters of the gospel, Jesus opens his heart to them and to the Father. This discourse, unique to the gospel of John, is in the form of a “last testament” from a leader to his followers. After the dialogue between Jesus and Thomas and Philip that we hear today, almost all that follows is a monologue from Jesus.

Part of the appeal of John’s gospel lies in the conversations it records between Jesus and others. These give the gospel a human face. However they can also be disconcerting. Often Jesus’ response to a question is either quite indirect or in the form of a theological pronouncement that only raises more questions. Such is the case when Thomas asks to be shown the way Jesus is going and when Philip asks him to show them the Father. Jesus takes advantage of these pragmatic questions to offer sublime teaching. We must expect the same treatment.

Silence

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

READER: Built on Jesus Christ our cornerstone, we are living stones making up the house of God. From that house let our prayers arise to seek God's blessing on our world.

READER: For the whole of creation, that in preparation for the fifth anniversary of *Laudato si'* the human family will heed Pope Francis' call to care for the earth, our common home. (Pause for silent prayer) Let us pray to the Lord

Lord, hear us.

READER: For all who follow the way of Christ, that they will truly live as God's priestly people, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light

Lord, hear us.

READER: For nurses around the world, especially those caring for COVID-19 patients, that this week's International Nurses Day will truly honour their skill and dedication.

Lord, hear us.

READER: For mothers, grandmothers, and all who play a motherly role in others' lives, that today will be an occasion of joy and thanksgiving, and wherever needed, reconciliation.

Lord, hear us.

READER: Holy God and Father of Jesus, you gave us your Son to be the way that leads to you, the truth that sets us free, and life that fills us with gladness. Keep us close to him. 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

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

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us. St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.
(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)