

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 Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Lin Bowers, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Aileen Toohey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Tim Delaney

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney Visiting Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

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)

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 Schools	St. Brigid's Primary School St. Patrick's Primary School	Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll Principal: Mr Tim Delaney	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au 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:		\$11,411.00

Parish Update

We hope you are all keeping safe, well, warm and connected to our parish. There has been some easing of the Victorian Government's COVID-19 restrictions in regional Victoria, which is fantastic news. Unfortunately as far as masses go, we are still unable to celebrate mass and church gatherings indoor. This means our churches are closed with no masses until further notice from the Victorian Government. All going well, we will be able to meet for masses very soon. We will be informed at a later by the Victorian Government when these changes will take place. There are exceptions for funerals and weddings. The Parish Leadership Team are still meeting via zoom every fortnight. We're not making any major decisions, just ensuring that the Parish is running smoothly, dealing with the Gordon

Parish finances and addressing pastoral needs within our parish community. Hopefully we can gather together as one community soon.

Thought this beautiful prayer was very appropriate at the moment.

The Sapling: Loving God, we thank you for the gift of new growth.

For the people who never give up.

For the ones who look after the sick.

For those who insist that black lives matter.

*For those who bring food to those who can't leave home.
They are all like saplings, small plants that point to a bigger future.*

*We thank you for the call to new growth in our own lives,
To new commitment, to fresh honesty, to deeper love.*

Be with us as we begin to branch out.

Make us stronger.

Amen.



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 St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown	Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 Acting Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au 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.

Sacramental Program Up-Date

The Bungaree Sacramental Program was set to start in early June, however due to the restrictions during this COVID-19 time, in consultation with Fr Sajan, the following decisions have been made:

- The Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will be postponed till 2021. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be

able to receive those sacraments then. Dates will be decided later in the year.

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will still go ahead this year, at this stage. Any children who have not received this Sacrament and are in Year 2 or above, are eligible for this program. The Parent Meeting is 13th October, 2020 and the Retreat Day & Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Tuesday 10th November 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct these to The Bungaree Parish Office via email:

bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or to Sue Prendergast: sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

	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

Bill Moroney, Steven Molloy, Mark Leonard, Kevin Jeffrey, Jean Leonard, Andrew Forbes, Brian Frawley, Eric Jones, Gerald Mullane, Ag Wheelahan, Emmanuel Barbara, Kevin Conway, Lorraine Keilar, Joseph Smallman, James Doyle, Jim Field, Thomas Davis and Des Shanahan.

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, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary, Anne Micallef and Clare Adriaans

How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Emailed copies at Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
- Tubs outside churches.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has issued information regarding gatherings in places of worship now that restrictions have eased in regional Victoria. All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. It is different than we could have expected; the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is so important.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of September we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Prayerful & Eucharistic?** Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. You can read the discernment paper at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. We welcome any comments you have. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. The Zoom webinar will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. For more information, registration details and to download the flyers, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>



It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in honour of Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study

Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle which begins October 18. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Season of Creation: September 1 – October 4, 2020

The fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* was the beginning of the Special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year (May 24, 2020 – May 24, 2021) with the hope that it be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth, for humanity and all God's creatures. The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is *Jubilee for the Earth* in which we are invited to consider the integral relationship between the rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. The need for a just and sustainable system revealed this year by the global COVID-19 pandemic, is a time to reflect and act on the urgency of the situation of our world today and for future generations. Liturgically, we celebrate remembering God's action in prayer. Resources from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/a-season-of-creation/> include a reflection from Bishop Paul, liturgical resources to guide reflections of the season and ecumenical resources.

106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – this Sunday, September 27, 2020

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has prepared a Migrant and Refugee Kit, which includes stories from local communities, reflections and prayers https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit?fbclid=IwAR0oHRtrkYbmKFV4Tjy09SqFOMYSEeUVn3dUN-aWote00KR2-JArGmZS8_8

Engaging Your Catholic Faith

Engaging Your Catholic Faith is a series of short sessions offered online by Catholic Theological College lecturers on a range of topics including theology, scripture, pastoral studies and spirituality. Sessions will be held from September 14 - October 31 and will cost \$20 per session. The sessions will be held via Zoom and will run for approximately 90 minutes. More information and enrolment details are available from www.ctc.edu.au.

All notices for weekly bulletin need to be submitted by 3.00pm Wednesday at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au THANKS

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'Tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Reflections on the Gospel

THE PATIENCE OF GOD

The parable about two sons in today's Gospel can be understood on various levels. In Jesus' own context it probably served to defend his practice, shocking to the religious authorities, of celebrating the discovery of God's mercy with those considered outcasts and sinners.

At a deeper level, the parable shows that what God looks to—and can wait for with infinite patience—is the *final* outcome in people's lives. God can put up with an initial *No*, and many other *No*'s besides, on the way to a final and lasting *Yes*.

From the human angle, people who appear religious and obedient from the start may never have sufficiently plumbed the depth of God's mercy to know God as God really is. Conversion at depth and the knowledge of God that goes with it overflows into a pattern of life truly reflecting God's grace. But a hard, judgemental attitude to others may indicate lack of true conversion and knowledge of God: something that may leave such people waiting at the door, while those whom they thought far less worthy enter into the fullness of life before them.

What ultimately determines fitness for eternal life is conformity of the human heart to the heart of God. None of us could ever amass sufficient good works to merit even a second of life with God. That life will be God's gift in abundance if only we have grown—sometimes in the course of a very winding and to-and-fro journey—into the capacity to receive it.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. R.

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. R.

3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. R.

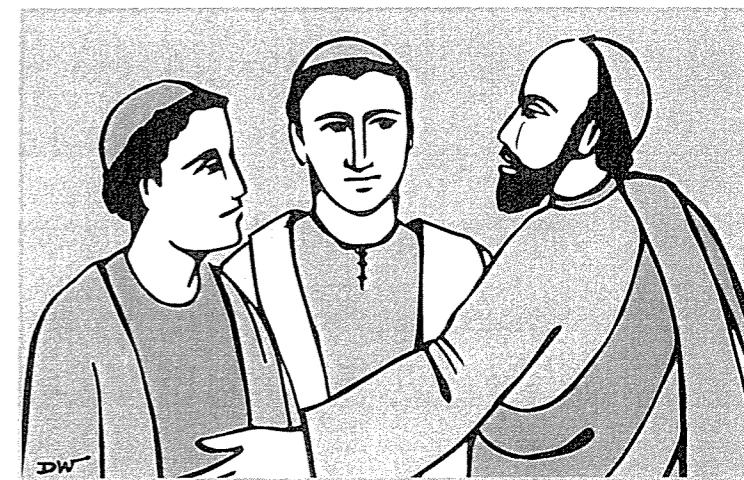
SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common



purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): ~26th & 27th
September 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

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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 prophet Ezekiel, Ezek 18:25-28

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians, Phil 2:1-11

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 21: 28-32

Silence

Homily

In between last Sunday's parable and this, much has happened in Matthew's gospel. Jesus has made his mock triumphal entry into Jerusalem and has cleansed the temple; he has also taught and healed and engaged in the prophetic act of cursing the fig tree. This section of the gospel (20:17 – 21:27) is worth reading through because it provides important context for today's parable. The entire gospel drama is coming to a climax. The last days of Jesus' life are under way. His final confrontation with the forces gathering against him is about to occur. A preliminary skirmish between Jesus and the Jewish authorities is now taking place in the temple. They challenge his authority in vain. This prompts Jesus to respond with a series of parables which we hear over three Sundays, starting today.

As Matthew presents them, Jesus uses these parables to accuse Israel's leaders of wilful refusal to accept him or the Baptist before him. But by recording them in his gospel Matthew

is alerting later generations of religious leaders to the perennial danger of resistance to God's call. The risk extends to church communities in general and to their individual members. The categorical judgement that Jesus passes – “Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him” – makes sense in the context of Jesus' own impending condemnation.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

READER: In our minds we are to be the same as Christ Jesus, who emptied himself even to Death on the cross. Let us be united with him in prayer for the whole of humanity.

READER: We pray for all migrants and for refugees who, like Jesus, have been forced to flee, that the nations of the world will work together to give them safety and shelter.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray for the many in our midst whose mental health is under great stress, that the support of family, friends and professional services will lead them to peace of mind.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray children and young people at critical stages of their education, that they succeed in overcoming the disadvantage of a disrupted school year.

Lord, hear us.

READER: We pray for older persons around the world, that they be cherished, cared for, and enabled to live full and fruitful lives.

Lord, hear us.

READER: Holy God, you raised your Son from the shame of the cross to the glory of heaven. Raise us, we pray, from the shame of sin to the glory of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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**