

33rd Sunday of the Year (Year A): ~ 14/15 November 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 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
----------------	---	---	----------------------------	--

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:		\$14,559.00

Parish Update

Indoor Religious Gatherings: are now allowed for up to 20 people, plus **one faith leader**. Strict requirements to be contained in a COVID Safe Plan (*please note this is slightly different from the last round of restrictions we operated under*) If you would like to be one of the 20 attendees this week, (Saturday, Nov 14 Dunnstown 6.30pm or Sunday, Nov 15 Gordon 8.45am &- Ballan 10.30am) you need to register your name with the parish secretary on 0492 903 409 to book your

place. These are small steps as we progress forward and hopefully if all goes well this will lead to larger groups into the future.

We trust and pray that you are keeping safe and well and staying connected to family members, friends and those you love.

Cemetery Visits:

November is the month when we particularly remember All Souls. Fr Sajan will visit Gordon Cemetery this Sunday afternoon Nov 15 at 3pm and Ballan Cemetery next Sunday Nov 22 at 3pm. Please spread the word. As we are allowed up to 50 people outdoors this will be a wonderful opportunity to gather and remember our deceased family members.

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	Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
----------------	--	--	--

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$235.00	Parish: \$1030.00
--------------------	----------	--------------------------

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

Dear Parishioners,
Due to the ongoing uncertainty and COVID restrictions, it has been decided by Fr Sajan and the Sacramental Team that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be postponed this year. Therefore, new dates for all Sacraments will be planned for similar times next year and all children eligible for the programs will be able to participate.

THE Bungaree Parish offers a Family Based Sacramental Program which is led by the Sacramental Team and supported by the Parish schools, St Mary's Clarkes Hill and St Brendan's Dunnstown. The Sacraments and Eucharist are offered for Children in Year 3 and above. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered for children in Year 2 and above. Therefore, 2021 will look slightly different as there will be multiple age groups participating and we will make adjustments to the programs as necessary. If there is anyone in the Parish Community who would like to join the Sacramental Team or know more information, Please contact the Parish Office on 5334 0450 or email bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or to Sue Prendergast: sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	COMMUNION MINISTER	Other
As requested				

LITURGIES

As requested

	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**

Agnes Leonard, Bobby Britt, Ted Holloway, Geraldine Nihill, Jack McEldrew, Steven Tingate, Katherine Mary Clarke, Louise Mary Jarvis, Frank Bartaska, Michael Dyer, Mary Canty, Mary Molloy, Doreen Conroy

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, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Thelma Keating, Lyla Geary and Anne Micalef.

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.

e-News

The Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The Diocesan e-News is published every two weeks and distributed via email. It is available to all members and those associated with the Diocese and to those with an interest in the life of the Diocese. We encourage you to subscribe to the e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese. To subscribe please go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au, click News & Events in the menu at the top, then e-News and register for the Diocesan e-News by the subscribe box.

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](#). The National Plenary Facilitation Team have released a resource to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers (attached). Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. **For the month of November we will look at HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Humble, Healing and Merciful?** Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Read the discernment paper:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-4.pdf>

Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/humble/>

Next step on Plenary Council journey: As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the *instrumentum laboris*, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the *instrumentum laboris* writing team <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>

Catholic Care Victoria

Victoria's bishops have announced the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity, CatholicCare Victoria from January 1, 2021. Statements and further information is available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria/>

Prayer of Gratitude

For the laughter of the children, for my own life breath,
For the abundance of food on our tables,
For the roof over our heads, the clothes on our backs,
For our health, and our wealth of blessings,
For our opportunity to celebrate with family and friends,
For the freedom to pray these words
Without fear,
In any language,
In any faith,
In this great country,
Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.
Thank You, God, for giving us all these. Amen.

Due to recent relaxation of restrictions, places of worship can open for the celebration of mass for up to 20 people in a single undivided space which will stand until further notice. Fr Sajan will be celebrating mass this coming Saturday (Nov 14) at Dunnstown at 6.30pm, Sunday, (Nov 15) at Gordon 8.45am and at Ballan 10.30am. We will be required to register to record details of all attendees at each mass, plus masks, signage, hygiene and safe cleaning practices as well. Please contact the parish secretary on 0492 903 409 to register. Thank you for your assistance.

Could all items for the newsletter please be forwarded via email if possible to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, by 2pm. gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Thank you.

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

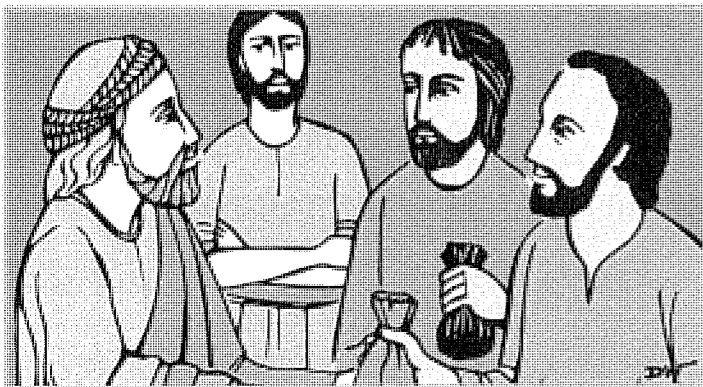
Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. ‘Sir,’ he said ‘you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2020. No 1851. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Reflections on the Gospel

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 NOVEMBER 2020

RISK TAKING FOR GOD

As we approach the end of the Church’s liturgical year, the focus remains upon the second coming of the Lord. Once again, the Gospel provides a parable (the Talents) instructing us how to live in view of that expectation.

The master in the parable is pleased with the enterprising first two servants. Having realised substantial gains on the amounts entrusted to them, they are welcomed ‘into the joy of their master’—that is, into the banquet of the Kingdom.

But the third servant, who simply hid his single talent in the ground, displeased his master because he didn’t do what was expected, namely, trade with the money so that it would increase. He didn’t even put the sum in the bank, where it would have at least accrued some interest. Paralysed by a fearful image that he has of his master (an image of God that the parable does not endorse but actually refutes), he sought security in giving back, in strict justice, the exact sum entrusted to him. This, however, was not what the master wanted. Hence the severe penalty.

The parable challenges believers not to rest content simply with not doing anything wrong so that God will not be able to find anything to punish. Such an attitude mistakes the nature of God and neglects what God really wants, which is an enterprising, even risk-taking, practice of the ‘weightier matters of the law’: ‘justice, mercy and faith’ (Matthew 23:23). The gifts God has entrusted to us, like our minds and limbs, need active exercise if they are not to atrophy and wither.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband’s heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have
worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city
gates.

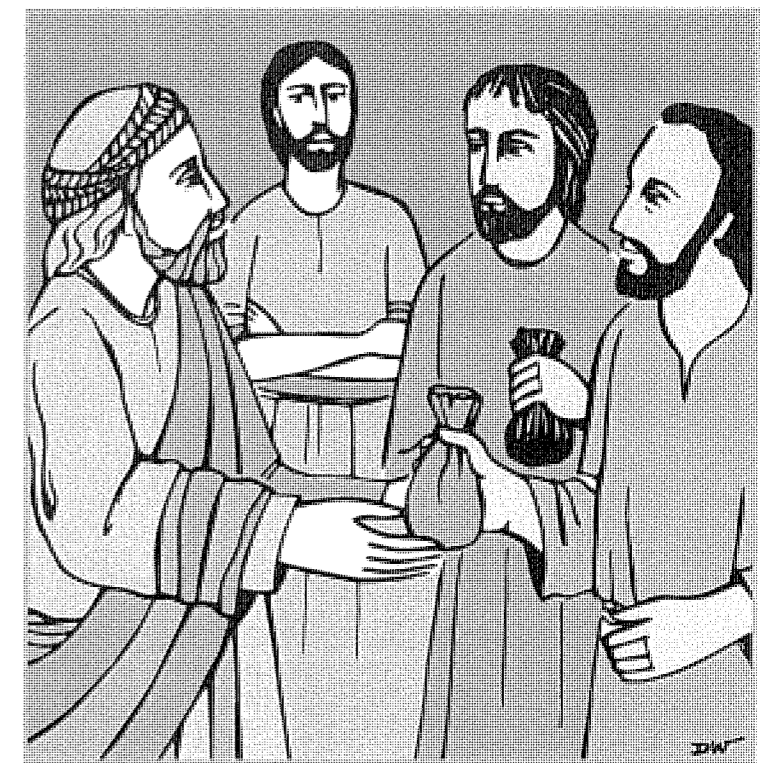
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

R. **Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. R.
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. R.
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. R.



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5: 1-6

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

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

■ The word of the Lord.



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

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
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 Book of Proverbs Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

**Second Reading: A reading from the letter of 1st letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
1 Thess 5:1-6**

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 14-15, 19-21

Silence

Homily

The gospel reading comes in a full and a shorter form. The choice between them is not easy. The full version is quite long and rather repetitious (as one might expect for a text passed on by generations of story-tellers) and has a troubling conclusion, but the short version is so truncated that the power of the story is greatly diminished. This commentary presumes the longer text.

The parable is the second of the last three that Jesus tells before the beginning of his final ordeal. It does not speak directly of the end time but of how his disciples should live while they await the end – in a word, with enterprise.

The word “talent” is open to misinterpretation by a modern audience, especially as the master in the story distributes the talents “each according to his ability”. Here a talent is not an ability or gift that a person has but an extraordinary large sum of money, a life’s fortune. The slaves entrusted with the five and the two talents respectively are rewarded for their enterprise. So far this is a simple lesson that of itself might not generate much discussion.

It is the conclusion that is provocative. What are we to make of the treatment meted out to the slave who did not dare venture with his one talent? Is the “moral” of the story (verse 29) an operational principle of the kingdom of God? These are questions that still engage us.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

FR SAJAN: Let us turn to God our Father in confidence that he will provide for all our needs

READER: For the Church, that all Christ's faithful people will commit themselves to bringing His light to the whole world. Lord in your mercy

R: Lord, hear us.

READER: For all those in government, that they will always strive to protect the dignity of human life. Lord in your mercy

R: Lord, hear us.

READER: For the healing of the nations that all people may learn to live in peace and endeavour to bring an end to the tumult of war. Lord in your mercy

R: Lord, hear us.

READER: For all who are starved of hope, especially the world's poor, that their sufferings may be recognised and alleviated by those in positions of authority. Lord in your mercy

R: Lord, hear us.

READER: For the sick, the suffering and the housebound, that they may know the healing touch of God's love. Lord in your mercy

R: Lord, hear us.

READER: For those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time - Agnes Leonard, Bobby Britt, Ted Holloway, Geraldine Nihill, Jack McEldrew, Steven Tingate, Katherine Mary Clarke, Louise Mary Jarvis, Frank Bartaska, Michael Dyer, Mary Canty, Mary Molloy, Doreen Conroy - that they may enjoy their eternal reward with Christ in heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.

FR SAJAN: Heavenly Father, you know each one of us and all our needs. Forgive our failings, keep us in your peace and lead us in the way of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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.

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.

(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches. We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)