

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B): ~ 12/13 December 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
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Collections last weekend

Thanks to all who give generously to each of these collections:

Loose	Presbytery: \$459	Parish: \$287
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2019/20:	
Year to Date:		\$20,000

As you may have seen, the Victorian Govt has announced new provisions for religious gatherings. At this stage, there is no need to pre-book for each mass, but you will still be required to register on entering the Church.

Please refer to the attached message from Bishop Paul regarding these latest restrictions.

Please note also that there are QR Codes in our three churches to enable you to scan your mobile phone to register.

Counters Needed:

If you are able to assist with counting the Sunday takings, could you please contact the Parish Office for more details - 0492 903 409. Thank you

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 Principal: Inez French	☎ 5334 5280 ☎ 5334 7604	www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$341.30	Parish: \$590
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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

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	Please Note	
12/13 December	3 rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)	ISA 61:1-2, 10-11 1 Thess 5:16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28	
Springbank ~ 6.30pm	As requested	Until we can resume our normal weekend Mass	
Bungaree~ 8.45am	As requested	Timetable, we will call upon volunteers to assist	
Ballan~ 10.30am	As requested	with reading the Scriptures and Prayers	
19/20 December	4 th Sunday of Advent (Year B)	Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26 - 38	
Dunnstown ~6.30pm	As requested	of Intercession.	
Gordon ~8.45am	As requested		
Ballan~10.30am	As requested		
24/25 December	The Nativity of the Lord		
Please refer next page	As requested		
For Christmas Mass	As requested		
Times	As requested		

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) in Bungaree at 9.30am – all welcome!

	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

Peter Quinlan, Maurice Torpy, Maureen Frawley, Ron Devlin, John Senserrick, Raymond Butler, Jessie Robinson, Fred Begbie, Bill Mahar, Margaret Clifford, Margaret Fuller, Ronald Graham, Brian Shanahan, Jeanette Delbridge, Margaret Toohey.

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 Micallef.

Baptism Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate the anniversaries of the following baptisms: Oliver Dalton, Henry Cain, Rose Cain (2018), Aillie Sharp, Violette Sharp (2017), Lucy Berens, Austin Attard (2016) and Audrey Montano.

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

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.

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

Plenary Council Update

In light of the ongoing uncertainty around future COVID-19 restrictions regarding travel and public gatherings, especially social distancing, a decision has been taken for the first Plenary Council assembly to take place using a combination of online and in-person delivery. Read more at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/first-plenary-council-assembly-mixes-in-person-online-format/>

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/read>

Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year.

To donate go to https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687



Advent Resources

Advent resources are available from the diocesan website. Click on the "Liturgy Resource" tab on front page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

#AdventHope

Read the latest from the Global Catholic Climate Movement at <https://preview.mailerlite.com/u9i6z9/1558374805588153901/06p7/>

Thank God for Mass!

Just as lockdown begins to ease and Churches open for prayer and the celebration of Mass, Sue Ellis has produced an interactive book that will help every family, school and church to inspire children to enjoy the many aspects of this key event in the life of every Catholic. More information available from the diocesan website "Liturgy resources" page.

Advance Notice – dates for 2021:

Rite of Election: Saturday, February 20, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 12.30pm.

Mass of the Oils: Monday, March 29 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm.

Ministry & Cleaning Rosters for 2021 are currently being updated. If you wish to be added or taken off the roster, could you please inform the parish member of this. We appreciate all the efforts all parishioners do to make our parish life run smoothly.

Christmas Mass Times:

Dec 24 – Clarkes Hill – 6pm
(Christmas Eve) Springbank – 6pm
Gordon 7.30pm
Bungaree – 8pm

Dec 25 - Ballan – 9am
(Christmas Day) Dunnstown – 9.30am



(Please read the attached note from Bishop Paul outlining the latest information regarding mass attendances in particular to our Christmas celebrations)

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 or Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au Thank you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

THE SAVING WORD

13 DECEMBER 2020

JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The build-up to Christmas and the festive season has a way of leaving many people tired and stressed as many tasks call for our attention. It is probably impossible to avoid much of this as the feast of Christmas marks the end of the year and the beginning of the summer break. The readings for today can help each of us to determine more clearly what are our major priorities as Christians in preparing for Christmas.

Within the readings today two dimensions of our preparation are stressed. The first is the call to witness to our faith by sharing in God's life-giving, freeing, and healing love. The second dimension is that of finding time to give thanks and praise to God for the gifts we have received through the presence of Jesus among us.

Isaiah's mission of proclaiming liberty and God's love to those in exile comes out of his own experience of this love. Because of this experience, he is able to be a witness to what God is doing in his own day. John the Baptist provides us with a powerful example of a person of faith who is prepared to stand up and bear witness.

As Paul concludes the letter to the Thessalonians he reminds them that the best way to prepare for the Lord's return is by living at peace with one another and being constant in their prayer. One relationship nourishes the other. Making time for the Lord in prayer enables us to make time for each other.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of nations.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

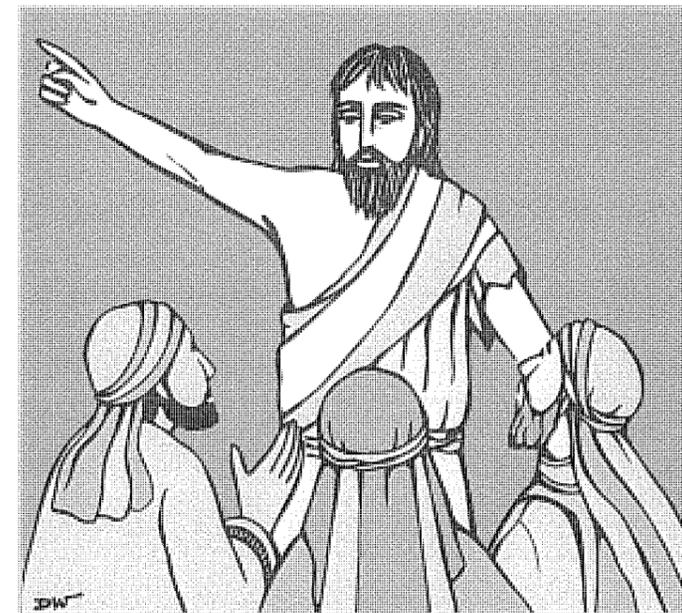
Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. R.

2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. R.

3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. R.



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!



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December 6, 2020

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian government has announced a further easing of COVID restrictions. From midnight tonight, Sunday December 6, Victoria will move to **“COVIDSafe Summer Restrictions”**.

There will be no overall limit on the number of people who can attend religious gatherings and ceremonies (including weddings and funerals). The number of people will depend on the size of the church.

We will still need to keep a record of the first name and contact phone number of each person who attends.

If we keep the record manually (using pen and paper), the density quotient will remain at 1 person per 4 square metres. If we keep the record electronically, using a QR (Quick Response) code, the density quotient can be 1 person per 2 square metres.

Using a QR code requires people to scan the code using their smart phone camera. The QR code takes the person to a website where they enter their details. You can find information about the Victorian Government QR Code Service at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qrcode

I expect that most of our communities will continue recording first name and phone number using pen and paper. For those communities, the density quotient will remain at 1 person per 4 square metres. In this case, to calculate the number of people who can gather in a particular area, you measure the floor space and divide by 4. For example, if a church is 30 metres long x 10 metres wide, the area is 300 square metres. So you could have 75 people gather in that church.

From midnight tonight, wearing a mask will no longer be mandatory in places of worship. However, wearing a mask is recommended when you cannot keep 1.5 metres distance from other people.

Thank you all for your patience through these months of restrictions. Special thanks to those who have been serving our communities in extra ways, such as in keeping records and doing the extra cleaning of our churches.

May the easing of restrictions mean that we can worship together more freely while still keeping safe.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird



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December 7, 2020

Hello Everyone,

As a follow-up to my message yesterday about the new COVIDSafe Summer provisions, I offer some further comments about using the QR (Quick Response) Code system for contact tracing.

Parishes are keen to have as many people as possible able to come to Mass, particularly at Christmas. As I mentioned yesterday, if we use the QR code system, we can have 1 person per 2 square metres, and so double the number we have had in recent weeks.

From my inquiries, I understand that it is easy for a parish to arrange a QR code for each church in the parish and it would be easy to use, even if some parishioners are not tech savvy. As long as some parishioners have mobile phones, they could use their phones to register themselves and other people. In this regard, younger members of the parish might be especially helpful. For example, when families arrive for Christmas Masses, younger members of families could use their phones to register older members of their families as well as themselves. We only need to provide a first name and a contact phone number for each person attending a religious service.

I encourage each parish to consider arranging QR codes for each location where they will be celebrating Christmas Mass. You can find information about the Victorian Government QR Code Service and obtain QR codes through the government website at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qrcode

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul