

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year B): ~ 19/20 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 ☎ 5368 1015

[www.sballan.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sballan.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr Tim Delaney

☎ 5368 9495

[www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au)

#### Collections last weekend

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

<b>Loose</b>	Presbytery: \$422.25	Parish: \$275.00
<b>Planned Giving</b>	Envelopes 2019/20:	
<b>Year to Date: \$20,675</b>		

As you may have seen, the Victorian Govt has announced new provisions for religious gatherings. Attendees will still be required **to register on entering the Church.**

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 ☎ 5334 5280

[www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604

[www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

#### Collections last weekend:

<b>Presbytery:</b> \$250.00	<b>Parish:</b> \$390.00
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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](http://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](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or to Sue Prendergast: [sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sprendergast@sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	Please Note
19/20 December	4 <sup>th</sup> 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	Until we can resume our normal weekend Mass
Gordon ~ 8.45am	As requested	Timetable, we will call upon volunteers to assist
Ballan ~ 10.30am	As requested	with reading the Scriptures and Prayers
24 / 25 December	The Nativity of the Lord -(Year B)	
Please refer next page	As requested	of Intercession.
For Christmas Mass	As requested	
Times	As requested	
26 / 27 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B) Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2: 22, 39-40	
Clarkes Hill - 6.30pm	As requested	
Gordon - 8.45am	As requested	
Ballan - 10.30am	As requested	

## LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

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

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> 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

Anne-Maree Block, Anne Griffin, Monica McDermott, Fr Daniel Devane, Eileen Elliott, John McCarthy, Ronald Graham, Roma Barry, Brian Barry, Sheila Gregory, Pleasance 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 Micallef.

### Baptism

Last weekend, we welcomed Audrey Montano (daughter of Sam & Claire) into our faith community with baptism at Clarke's Hill. We welcome Audrey and assure her and her family of our prayers and support.

### How to get the Parish Newsletter

- Bungaree and Gordon Parish links of the Diocese website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Emailed copies at [Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Tubs outside churches.

### New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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](http://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](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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**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 –** Clarke's Hill – 6pm  
(Christmas Eve) Springbank – 6pm  
Gordon 7.30pm  
Bungaree – 8pm

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



In light of current restrictions and numbers permitted in each church, it is recommended **pre-booking of all Christmas masses in our two parishes**. Please either leave a message or text your name and which mass you would like to register for to **0492 903 409** Also you can email [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) We realize this is a little inconvenient, but circumstances are beyond our control and we would like to accommodate as many parishioners as we can. We are keen to have as many people as possible able to come to Mass, particularly at Christmas. 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.

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](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) Thank you.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

## MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**  
*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. R.

## SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**