

5th Sunday of Easter (Year B): ~ 1/2 May 2021

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, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Paul McDowell

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney 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 Paul McDowell	☎ 5368 1015 ☎ 5368 9495	www.sballan.catholic.edu.au www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
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Collections last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$410.60	Parish: \$697 \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21: \$30,580 (updated)	

As of the end of April, the Parish contribution to the **Project Compassion Appeal** for 2021 amounted to \$737.85. Thanks to all who so generously donated to this appeal. Donations to the Parish are vital to the sustainability of our Parish community.

COVID Registration Form - Gordon

To assist parishioners in registering their attendance, we ask for a volunteer attending Mass on the day to facilitate the sign-in procedure before the commencement of Mass. After completion, the registration forms will be held by the Parish Office

National Count of Attendance at Mass - Gordon

Counting of church attendance will be conducted every week during May. A designated counting sheet has been placed in each of the Gordon, Ballan and Springbank churches to facilitate the count directly after Mass. Please nominate counter/s before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information and ensuring that the form is completed correctly. The three forms should be returned to the Parish Secretary for forwarding on to the Diocese Office

St. Brigid's School 2022 PREP Enrolments

Enrolments open Tuesday, April 20, 2021. For information and registration go to: www.sballan.catholic.edu.au/school-tours

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

Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409

✉ 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
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Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$188.00	Parish: \$NA
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Parishioners of Bungaree donations included **Easter Dues** \$60.00. Thanks to all parishioners who so generously gave to each of these collections:

COVID Registration Form - Bungaree

To assist parishioners in registering their attendance, we ask for a volunteer attending Mass on the day to facilitate the sign-in procedure before the commencement of Mass. After completion, the registration forms will be held by the Parish Office

Bungaree Parish Leadership Team: There are currently two vacant positions each from Dunnstown and Bungaree on the

Parish Leadership Team. If you would be interested in filling any of these roles or would like some more information, please contact Damian Ryan - ryandjr@bigpond.com

National Count of Attendance at Mass- Bungaree

Counting of church attendance will be conducted every week during May. A designated counting sheet has been placed in each of the Bungaree, Dunnstown and Clarke's Hill churches to facilitate the count directly after Mass. Please nominate counter/s before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information and ensuring that the form is completed correctly. The three forms should be returned to the Parish Secretary for forwarding on to the Diocese Office

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
1 / 2 May	5th Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31 Jn 15: 4-5		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Diane Reynolds	Diane Reynolds	Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Monica Eastwood & Mark Conroy	Therese & Michael Winter	Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Rosemary Canavan & Anne Eskdale	Cairan & Janine Donohoe Family	Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
8/9 May	6th Sunday of Easter Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4 7-10		
Springbank 6.30 pm	Louise Haintz	Greg McAloon	Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree 8.45 am	N Jeffrey	S Steenhuis	Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan 10.30 am	Margaret Green & Mark Conlan	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of each Month
15/16 May	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11, Eph 1: 17-23		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Fran Peterkin	Fran Peterkin	Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Gordon-8.45am	Kerryn Taylor	Mark & Narelle Conroy	Saturday - Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30am	WinnieZammit & Lloyd Lamb	Binks Family	

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) at 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	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan
Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am					

Anniversaries: Shelia Patmore, Kath Moloney, Teresa Fogarty, Jeffrey Micallef, Philip Camilleri, Reginald Haintz, Angela Teuma, Mary Howard, Merv Howard, Patrick Leonard, Carole Steenhuis, Kathleen Gleeson.

We offer our prayerful support for the sick Anna Bartaska, Mitchell Prendergast, Lyla Geary Michelle Hall, Mary Cassar, Moira Myers, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating Stan Mahar, Lore Winter, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, John Ryan, Alice Gardiner, Eileen Haintz

Baptisms: We welcome Elisha Gemma Mucat, the child of Marissa and Steven, who will be baptised this weekend at St. Brigid's Church Ballan, into our Parish community.

Faith in the Future - Pastor & Principal forum

A Diocesan meeting for principals, parish priests and governing authority representatives facilitated by Fr David Ranson, will be held on May 13-14, 2021 at the Mercure Ballarat. Please note that this is a two day event. Registrations are essential and close on Friday, May 7, 2021 at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/faith-in-the-future-pastor-principal-forum-tickets-149979020287>

National Count of Attendance at Mass & Sunday Assemblies in the Parishes of Gordon and Bungaree

The parishioners of Bungaree and Gordon have been asked to participate in the national count during the month of May. The national count is conducted in the same year of the Australian Census so that the information collected can be most effectively used. The count is conducted over the **first four consecutive Sundays (& Saturday evenings) in May**. Counting over four Sundays ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked. This year, parishes will also be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of those who attend Mass and Sunday assemblies.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

We ask all parishioners to abide by the rules for Victoria's COVID safe settings. All parishioners who have a mobile phone are required to register via the QR code when entering the church. If you do not have a mobile phone you must register by completing the sign-in form before Mass. Please remember to follow the guidelines for safe ways to celebrate and practice faith including – get tested and stay home if you feel unwell, Save COVIDSafe by washing your hands regularly, having a face mask with you and wearing it when required, coughing and sneezing into your elbow and keeping **at least 1.5 meters** from others.

Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. FAQ information sheet from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has been placed in all churches in the Parish of Bungaree and Gordon. Also available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

Pathways Victoria

The Catholic Diocese of Victoria has introduced a new model for Complaints and Redress in Victoria, Pathways Victoria, for implementing the Church's National Response Protocol released earlier this year. A public consultation period has been set-up for the period 13 April until 14 May 2021. A Media Release and Frequently Asked Questions information sheet has been posted on all church noticeboards. For further information, go to: www.pathwaysvictoria.com/

Pope Francis – Message for 2021 World Day of Vocations. Saint Joseph: "The Dream of Vocation 'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: To beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: Hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.'"

A way to re-ignite the spark

An invitation to all in the diocese to join a conversation about faith during and after COVID-19, looking at people's experiences, where to next and how does the Plenary Council fit in. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7.00pm via zoom – you can zoom in yourself or perhaps organise a zoom gathering in your local community and join together. Please register with Jane Collins jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au and details will be sent.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember O Most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
My great protector, Saint Joseph,
That no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief.
Confiding therefore in your goodness,
I come before you.
Do not turn down my petitions,
Foster father of the Redeemer,
But graciously receive them,
Amen.

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to
you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
– he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on
the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

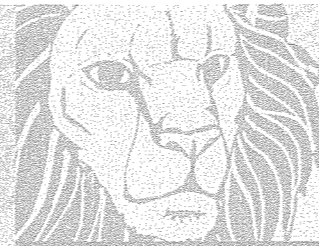
■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

02 MAY 2021

REMAINING IN JESUS' LOVE

Today's Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the challenge to bear fruit in our Christian lives. There are some plants that are best left alone but a vine needs to be pruned, to cut away what is not essential so that it can produce a good and abundant crop. For Christians the implement of pruning is the word of Jesus which enters into our hearts and challenges us to take stock of our lives and values.

In the second reading John shares a simple and profound truth with us, that the business of bearing fruit requires more than good intentions and fine words. The new life of Easter is something we can all share in by our belief in Jesus and our love for one another. The principles are simple, and the difficulty has always been that of living our lives day by day open to the word of Jesus and the demands of love.

Six times the theme of remaining is mentioned in the gospel. It is clearly an important and difficult dimension of our bearing fruit as Christians. Remaining faithful to our promises and allowing Jesus' word to enter deeper into our hearts is a constant challenge but the readings also encourage us not to lose heart. The example of Paul in the first reading shows how the Lord can enter into the hardest heart and can turn a feared persecutor into a fearless preacher of the word. Even gnarled vines can bear abundant fruit.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

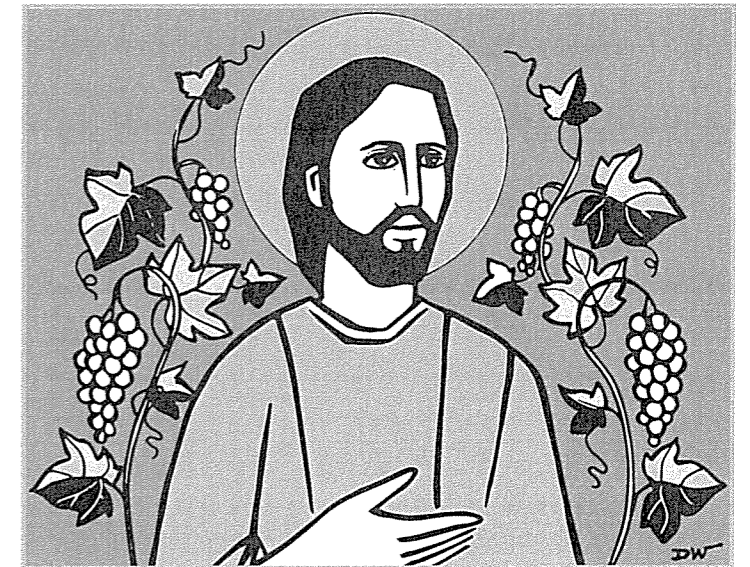
Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! R.

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. R.

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / 'These things the Lord has done.' R.



SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

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