

The Ascension of the Lord (Year B): ~ 15/16 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: \$690.95	Parish: \$197.00 \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$30,864 (updated)

We gratefully acknowledge all parishioners who generously donated to each of these collections:

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. This week's count will be held at Gordon. The count will include the gender composition of the congregation. Please nominate counter/s

before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information.

St. Patrick's School, Gordon

St. Patrick's School, Gordon welcomes all enquiries and enrolments for 2022. For further information or to organise a school tour, please contact the Principal, Mr Paul McDowell on 5368 9495; principal@spgordon.catholic.edu.au

St. Brigid's School 2022 PREP Enrolments

Enrolments open Tuesday, April 20, 2021. School tours/ Information sessions will be held on Wed 19 May. For info 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: \$365.00	Parish: \$390.00
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Thanks to all parishioners who so generously gave to each of these collections:

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. This week's count will be held at Dunnstown. The count will include the gender composition of the congregation. Please nominate counter/s before Mass who will be responsible for collating the information.

Bungaree Parish Leadership Team Barry Sheehan has volunteered to join the Parish Leadership Team. We thank Dianne Reynolds for her ongoing commitment to the Parish of Bungaree, and special thanks to Karen Cahir who recently resigned from the Leadership Team.

Upgrades

The convent flat and the school are currently being rented out to earn vital income for the Parish. With new tenancy regulations, significant works have been carried out. The convent building has been re-roofed, internal painting work completed, a gas oven re-located, gas and electrical systems checked and trees trimmed and lopped. Many thanks to Frank Hanrahan and Jack Steenhuis for their carpentry work in the flat.

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
15/16 May	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11, Eph 1: 17-23		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Fran Peterkin	Fran Peterkin	Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Beth Calleja	Mark & Narelle Conroy	Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Winnie Zammit & Lloyd Lamb	Binks Family	Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
22/23 May	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2: 1-11 Gal: 5: 16-25		
Clarke's Hill-6.30 pm	Julie Moran	Julie Moran	Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45 am	Maria Donegan & Shane Carey	Margaret Smith & Georgina Wright	Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Bert Jarvis & Lin Bowers	Bridget Sims Family	Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of each Month
29/30 May	The Most Holy Trinity Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40; Rom 8: 14-17		
Springbank-6.30 pm	Sue Daly	Molly Ronan	Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Bungaree-8.45 am	A. Elliott & O. Elliott	P. Ryan	Saturday - Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30 am	Catherine Green & Sandra Miller	Lorraine DeSpirt & Vikki Boka	

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					

Recent Deaths: Frank Sheehan OAM

Anniversaries: Barry Torpy, Lillian Cullinan, Bill Deveraux, Tom Owens, James McDermott, Irene Coulter, Brian & Nellie Keighrey, Rev. Norbert Olsen, Keith Eastwood, Doris Eastwood, Ray Smith, Mary Smith, Iala Wise.

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 & Alfred Calleja.

Baptisms: We welcome Zacarios Giliana who will be baptised this weekend at St. Patrick's Church Gordon into our faith community. We also celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Ruby Miles, Genevieve Prendergast, Meredith Bodnar, Jude Joyce, Violet Toohey, Fergus Toohey, Lola Suckling and Ruby Plover.
Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 16-23, 2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 16 – 23, 2021 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The 2021 resources have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. Resources are available from <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/2021-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness

As Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of JobKeeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children, which have all been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

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/>

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video, published to Facebook and YouTube, includes a personal message from the Pope as he asks us to pray for each monthly intention. You can find it at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for May:

May universal intention for evangelisation – The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Laudato Si' Week: May 16 - 23, 2021

This week is the 6th anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* – "Care for Our Common Home". You are invited to join an online event "Sowers of Hope" on Friday, May 21 at 5.30pm. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office of Social Justice and Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program, are co-hosting this prayer and reflection event in *Laudato Si' Week* to celebrate the conclusion of the *Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year 2020 - 2021*. For more information and registration details go to <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/04/16/laudato-si-sowers-of-hope/>

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.*

far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28: 19, 20
Alleluia, alleluia! / Go and teach all people my gospel. / I am with you always, until the end of the world. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 16: 15-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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CALLED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

As I write I'm in a transit lounge and, as it turns out, it's probably the most appropriate place from which to reflect on the feast of the Ascension which was a moment of great transition for the early church. As Jesus ascended the disciples were invited to leave behind what was known and familiar. Now the time had come to begin a new stage of the journey as they continued Jesus' mission. Many questions remained and they were uncertain about their ability to cope with the changes that lay before them. Jesus had proclaimed the coming of the kingdom. Now the task had been entrusted to them.

In a time of transition and change, we can all have the need for a point of reference that helps give direction and a sense of purpose. Paul writes from prison, bound and seemingly powerless, but he knows that the most powerful bonds for the Christian are those of love. For the Christians of Ephesus, the call is to be worthy of the vocation they have received, to grow in their baptism, and in their love and care for one another.

In a sense, the Ascension is something that happens to each and every individual Christian and community when we take up the task of preaching the gospel in our own time and place. We are still called to preach the good news of the kingdom, to carry on the task which Jesus has entrusted to us. There are still many questions in the life of the Church and there always will be.

FIRST READING

Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

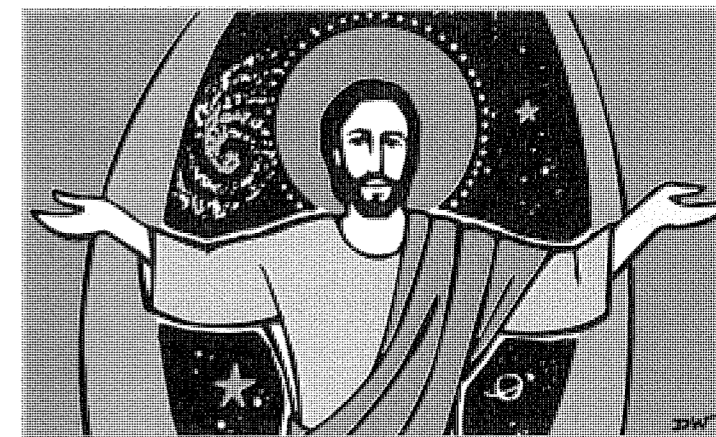
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1: 17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven,