

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,
Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth



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

A/Principal: Jayne Bosworth:
Principal: Mr Paul McDowell

☎ 5368 1015
☎ 5368 9495

www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections in Church last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$175.95	Parish: \$264.50
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$1084.50

Looking Forward:

The Diocese of Ballarat recently released the draft version of the *Looking Forward: Pastoral Planning for Parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat 2021-2025* document. The document details the challenges facing parishes & outlines proposals for restructuring parishes. The proposed restructure will directly affect the Parish of Gordon. The Gordon Parish Leadership Team invites all parishioners to carefully read & review the draft *Looking Forward* document. To ensure that all parishioners have the opportunity to read the document, it has been forwarded to subscribers of the Parish Bulletin & printed as an attachment to the 25/26 September Combined Newsletter. Because of COVID restrictions, copies of *Looking Forward* have been placed in the bins/boxes at all churches for pick up. Copies are also available from the Parish Office.

The Parish of Gordon Leadership Team met during the week to discuss the *Looking Forward* document along with Fr Kevin Maloney's response to the questions raised (as distributed last week). The Team will convene a meeting with Fr Kevin and Fr Ed in the coming week to discuss further.

COVID - Mass Attendance

Attendance is capped at 20 persons. Bookings will be coordinated via the Parish Office. Please email or ring the Parish Secretary on 0492 903 409 to book attendance at all forthcoming masses. Remember to leave your name, contact phone number & preferred mass time/place. The booking register will close every Friday at 3pm. If you have said you will attend mass & cannot go, please inform the Parish Secretary. On arrival, sign-in with the QR code, sanitize your hands & wear a facemask. Please read Bishop Bird's letter printed at the end of this newsletter.

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

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$222.00	Parish:	\$560.00
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COVID Due to COVID restrictions, attendance is capped at 20. On arrival, sign-in with the QR code, sanitize your hands & wear a facemask. Please read Bishop Bird's letter printed at the end of this newsletter.

Looking Forward

The Diocese of Ballarat recently released the draft version of the *Looking Forward: Pastoral Planning for Parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat 2021-2025* document for

discussion. The document details the challenges facing Parishes, & outlines proposals for restructuring parishes. The proposed restructure will directly affect the Parish of Bungaree. The Bungaree Parish Leadership Team is currently reviewing the document and plans to distribute it to all parishioners soon. In the meantime, the Leadership Team is seeking further clarification with the Diocese of Ballarat on issues raised in the *Looking Forward* Document.

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
25/26 September	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Num 11:25-29; James 5: 1-6		
Clarkes Hill-6.30pm	Tim Bennet		Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Joan Bourke		Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Marie Shanahan, Julie Dargan		Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
2/3 October	27 Sunday in Ordinary Time Gen 2: 18-24; Heb 2: 9-11		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Liz Hanrahan		Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	Therese Winter		Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Margaret Green, Mark Conlan		Holy Hour - 1st Thursday of each Month
9/10 October	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 7: 7-11; Heb 4:12-13		
Springbank-6.30pm	Donna Simpson		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree-8.45am	Shelley Ryan		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan-10.30am	Winnie Zammit, Lloyd Lamb		

LITURGIES / WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 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	Clarks 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: Bill Moroney, Mark Leonard, Kevin Jeffrey, Jean Leonard, Andrew Forbes, Brian Frawley, Vera Winter, Kevin O'Brien, Bob Kick, Margaret Mahar, Catherine Graham, Noreen Torney RSM, Mary 'Mollie' Sullivan & Des Lee.

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

Migrant & Refugee Sunday Sept 26: For the 107th World Day of Migrants & Refugees this Sunday Sept 26, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: *Towards an Ever Wider "We"*. Go to <https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit/booklet>

Catholic Mission Month Catholic Mission Australia has launched its annual Appeal focusing on the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand who support children from vulnerable & disadvantaged backgrounds through their Kindergarten Centre. Learn more at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/catholic-mission-launches-world-mission-month-appeal>

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 & asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope & calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for September: **Universal intention – an environmentally sustainable lifestyle:** *We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple & environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.*

Season of Creation: Sept 1–Oct 4 is dedicated to prayer, reflection & celebration of God as Creator. It also reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation & the mission given to us by God to care for creation & respond to its needs & crises. This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the *oikos* of God'. *Oikos* is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger. For info go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

ACRATH Conversation Series: You are welcome to listen to ACRATH's Sr Colleen Jackson RSC, Oceania Coordinator of Talitha Kum & Sr Abby Avelino MM, Talitha Kum's Asian Coordinator speak on "Human Trafficking, global & local perspectives." Learn about their work in eliminating human trafficking & supporting victims of human trafficking. To be held this Wed, Sept 29 at 11.15am. Go to link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89809937994?pwd=cWdEb1orcTJxYk5yd1A1bTRkb9hQT09>

Plenary Council – Nearly there!

The First General Assembly of the **Fifth Plenary Council of Australia opens** with Mass at 2.00pm AEDT from St Mary's Cathedral, Perth on Sunday, Oct 3. The historic event will develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church. Watch the live-streamed Mass & access other info on the Plenary Council website at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au. Key moments during the First General Assembly will be available live-stream between Oct 3 & 10 including daily Masses, morning prayer for Plenary Council members & sharing the fruits of discernment. Go to: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can reflect & pray with the 16 questions that form the agenda. We extend an invitation to engage parishioners in the process & to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED HANDOUT.** Feel free to complete this individually or as part of a small group. It can be printed, then emailed or posted; or answers sent via email to pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Submissions will be forwarded to Diocesan Members of the Plenary Council.

Hello Everyone.

Last Sunday, the state government presented "**Victoria's Roadmap**", indicating stages on the road that will take us through the COVID pandemic. A key principle of the roadmap is that the more people are vaccinated, the more people will be able to gather in larger groups. This will include gatherings for worship.

For Regional Victoria, from Oct 26, people who are fully vaccinated will be able to gather for Mass in greater numbers. There will be a further increase in the numbers from Nov 5, but again, this will only be for people who can provide evidence that they are fully vaccinated. For gatherings where the vaccination status is unknown, the number will continue to be capped at 20.

This provides an extra incentive to be vaccinated. The basic reasons for vaccination are to protect our own health & the health of people around us. A further reason is so that we might gather in larger groups for liturgy & for the many other events that enrich our lives as communities.

So, I encourage everyone throughout our diocese to be vaccinated. I received my first vaccination in July & I have made my appointment for my second dose. I urge the priests & people of our parishes to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This will be good for our own health & the health of our families. It will also hasten the day when we will be able to come together again as local communities to praise God & share with one another in person.

God bless you all. Bishop Paul

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

26 SEPTEMBER 2021

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND GENEROSITY

The proper use of spiritual authority is treated in today's readings where both Israel's elders and Jesus' disciples are called to generosity of spirit. The elders have had a brief taste of sharing in Moses' prophetic ministry but it has passed. Upset by the fact that Eldad and Medad are prophesying when they cannot, leads them to ask Moses to intervene.

The scenario is somewhat different for the disciples but both the elders and the disciples saw themselves as sharing in the power and authority of Moses and Jesus respectively. Neither group took lightly the fact that others might have been able to share in this without reference to them. The issue for Jesus and for Moses is not who exercises spiritual authority but what they achieve by it. The disciples are challenged to look deeper into the matter, and into their own hearts, to see that their primary concern should be that of making sure that the word is preached to the little ones. Furthermore, they are strongly challenged to make sure they do not become the means by which others are led to lose their faith by their own poor example.

The elders and disciples were called to have open and generous hearts on the question of who can exercise spiritual authority. James calls us to being generous and just in the matter of the use of our material resources. The letter has been insistent in confronting us with any lack of consistency between what we profess and how we act, particularly towards those who are disadvantaged.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Num 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

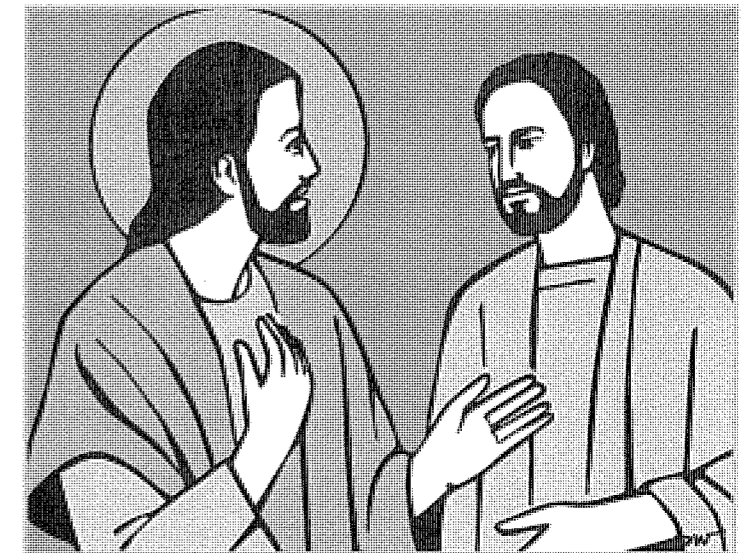
Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14. R. v. 9

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. R.
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. R.
3. So in them your servant finds instruction; / great reward is in their keeping. / But who can detect all his errors? / From hidden faults acquit me. R.
4. From presumption restrain your servant / and let it not rule me. / Then shall I be blameless, / clean from grave sin. R.



SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!



Continuing the Journey



The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes because of the impact of COVID-19. What hasn't changed is the heart of the journey – the discernment process.

We are mindful of all those who have made a significant contribution to the Plenary Council journey so far through the responses submitted during the time of listening, dialogue, and discernment; as well as the work of the members of the Six Discernment and Writing Groups.

The other important milestone celebrated recently is the publication of the Agenda for the Plenary Council. It charges the Members with the responsibility of developing "concrete proposals" for the Church in Australia in response to sixteen questions born of the last three years of conversation and discernment. It is important for all of us to remember when reading the Agenda that it is to be addressed over the entirety of the time we "celebrate" the Plenary Council. This includes the first Assembly in October 2021, the months between the two assemblies and the second Assembly in July 2022.

We extend an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. You can do this by commenting on the agenda below or by responding on the next page.

Responses can be made by either individuals or groups in your parish or community (adhering to COVID-19 restrictions). They do not have to be formal - they can be written or in poems or pictures, songs or prayers.

FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AGENDA

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

'I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27



Agenda continued next page

Comments on the Agenda can be made here:

Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to 'ecological conversion'? How can we express and promote a commitment to an 'integral ecology of life' in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to "make disciples of all the nations"?
- How might we better embrace the diverse (liturgical) traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJPs and new communities?

Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

You are invited to respond to the following:

You are invited to share briefly the impact of COVID-19 on your life and your faith life.

What has changed for you in relation to the Plenary Council since COVID-19?

Any further comment you would like to share?

Responses can be submitted: Pastoral Ministry Office, PO Box 576, Ballarat, 3353 or email: pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au