

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 & Maintenance: contact Parish Secretary ~ Safeguarding Officer: Lin Bowers



PARISH VISION: That all parishioners & visitors are welcomed as family & nourished as the Body of Christ

Parish Schools St. Brigid's Primary School Acting Principal: Jayne Bosworth ☎ 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
St. Patrick's Primary School Principal: Mr Paul McDowell ☎ 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections in Church last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$356.80	Parish: \$243.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$775.00 (updated)

COVID - Mass Attendance

No Mass will be held this weekend in the Parish of Gordon due to COVID restrictions.

The Combined Newsletter will be available via email. Hard copies will be available inside the Churches when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Live Streaming of Robert (Rob) Marshall's Funeral Service

The funeral service for Robert (Rob) Marshall will be held at St Brigid's Church, Ballan on Tuesday 7 September at 2pm.

Arrangements have been made for live streaming the funeral service. Click on the link for the live stream at <http://patcashinfunerals.slcaust.com.au/76931.html>. Live Streaming will start at 1:55pm

Thank You

"Margaret & Catherine Green would like to thank the people of the Parish of Gordon & St Brigid's community for their prayers, & their care & support during John's illness & following John's recent passing. John greatly enjoyed the friendship of the people of St Brigid's community & the wider Parish, & he valued these connections as an important part of his life".

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 Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604 www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery: \$414.00	Parish: \$510.00
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COVID - Mass Attendance

No Mass will be held this weekend in the Parish of Bungaree due to COVID restrictions.

The Combined Newsletter will be available via email. Hard copies will be available when COVID restrictions are lifted.

COVID Safe Plan

All parishes are required to have an updated COVID Safe Plan with designated COVID Safe Marshalls responsible for attendance caps & other matters for the three church communities in the Parish. Please contact members of the

Parish Leadership Team for further information. Designated Safeguarding Officer for the Parish is Leah Hanrahan.

Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflection: Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life & character. Lara Kirk, Marriage, Family & Relationships Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn, reflects on "The Holy Family" <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>
Copies of *Reflections-The Holy Family* can be picked up at Church.

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
4/5 September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 35: 4-7; James 2: 1-5		
Dunnstown-6.30pm			Tuesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon -8.45am			Wednesday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am			Thursday - 9.30am Bungaree
11/12 September	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 50: 5-9; James 2: 14-18		
Springbank-6.30pm			Friday - 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree-8.45am			Saturday - 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am			Holy Hour - 1 st Thursday of each Month
18/19 September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 2: 12, 17-20; James 3: 16-4:3		
Dunnstown-6.30pm			Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am mass
Gordon-8.45am			Saturday- Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass
Ballan-10.30am			

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	Clarkes 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: Robert Marshall

Anniversaries: Sylvia Cahir, Elizabeth McDermott, Frank Cass, Irene Parkin, Evelyn Nash, Mary O'Loughlin, Malcolm McKenzie, Rita Fuller, Jack Mahoney, Peter Cafai, Frank Leary, Rommy Sapuri, Tom McTigue, Gerald Clifford, William Bourke, Kath Mulcahy, Alma Eastwood & Kevin Reddie.

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

Diocesan News

In late August Bishop Bird announced that from Sept 20, 2021, Fr Gary Jones, currently Parish Priest of Creswick & Daylesford, will become Parish Priest of Mortlake & Terang.

Fr Gary has a long association with our local parishes; & provided invaluable support & guidance to our parish communities. We send him our congratulations & best wishes.

National Child Protection Week 5-11 September 2021

Theme: **Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.** To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family & community has what kids need to thrive & be healthy. For further info go to: <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>

Plenary Council – Continuing the Journey

The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to the impact of COVID-19 & the restrictions which do not allow people to gather. With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can however reflect & pray with the sixteen questions that form the agenda. With this in mind, we extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process & to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED H&OUT (Hard copies of the handout available from Church after COVID Restrictions lifted). Please feel free to complete this individually or after lockdown as part of a small group depending on COVID restrictions. It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

As we are not able to gather as a community at this time due to COVID restrictions, this opportunity to respond may be a way for you to spend some quiet time in reflection, thinking about the agenda of the Council & the future of the Church, on your life & prayer life. It may be of comfort to know that others from your faith community may be reflecting on this at a similar time.

Another way of "Continuing the Journey" is taking part in the national prayer campaign & in a special way support the Plenary Council. As the first Assembly in October 2021 draws nearer, all people are invited to become 'Prayer Partners' to accompany the Members & invoke the Holy Spirit on this historic gathering for the Church in Australia. The "Fan the Flame" resources have been designed so they can be used by individuals or by parishes with groups of any size & in any setting. They include material for each week as well as material that can be used at any time to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/>

Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021. 'This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.' Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes & disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present & future journey? (Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013)
<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/>

Season of Creation – September 1 – October 4, 2021

The Season of Creation runs annually from Sept 1 to Oct 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. 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 (Greek: home) of God'. Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger. For info go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND - Caring for Those Who Cared for Us – The Church Community's Responsibility

The Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, & who deserve a happy & peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting & caring for seventeen retired priests. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick & retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, & help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes will be distributed after the lifting of COVID restrictions. **A credit card facility is available for your convenience, & contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.**

FATHERS' DAY PRAYER

God, our Father,
We give you thanks & praise
for fathers young & old.
We pray for young fathers,
newly embracing their vocation:
may they find courage &
perseverance
to balance work, family & faith
in joy & sacrifice.
We pray for fathers around the world
Whose children are lost or suffering:
may they know that the God of
compassion
walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers
but still mentor & guide us with
fatherly love & advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers
& great grandfathers
who are no longer with us,
but who live forever in our
memory & nourish us with their
love.
Amen

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

05 SEPTEMBER 2021

JESUS THE DIVINE HEALER

At the heart of our life of faith is the belief that God has the power and desire to enter into our world and bring life where there was death. Prophets such as Isaiah spoke of the impact that the Messiah would have on the life of the people. Through the promised king, God would reach out and set right what was no longer in order; wrongs would be redressed and life would flourish anew in the desert, and in the hearts of the people. How many of Isaiah's contemporaries would have thought his words were simply vain hopes which would never be realised? How many were disillusioned with their past experience of kingship in Israel?

It was into this situation of need, hope and disbelief that Jesus came. His powerful word and healing touch brought hope and new life to those in need. One of the great ironies of today's miracle is Jesus' command that the deaf man keep silent about what has happened to him. Having just found his voice could he be expected not to use it? Mark's point is that having encountered Jesus we cannot keep silent.

Despite its brevity the letter of James contains some of the most hard-hitting teaching in the New Testament. Today the challenge concerns how the voice of the powerless cannot be silenced in the Christian community. The standards of the world have no place in the Christian community when it leads to a distinction between rich and poor, when a person's worth and dignity is only measured by their wealth.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

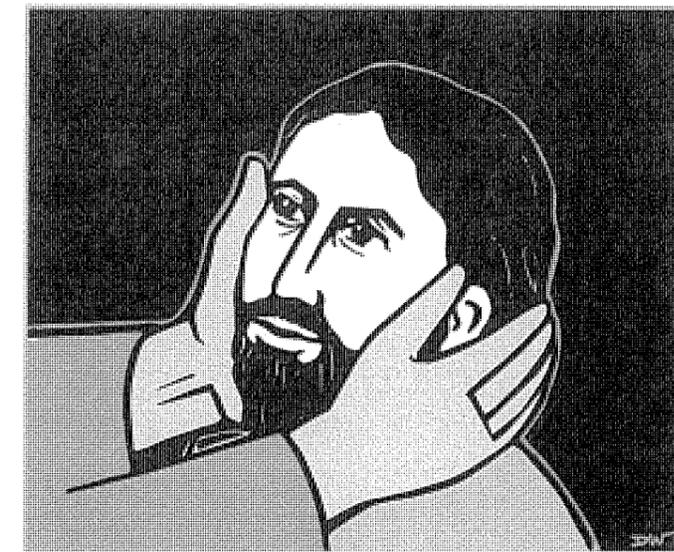
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 1

R. Praise the Lord, my soul! (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who protects the stranger. R.
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. R.



SECOND READING

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James.

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats,' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

■ The word of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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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