

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C): ~ 18/19 December 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, 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

Principal: Ms 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: \$522.00	Parish: \$242.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$4,988.40

St Patrick's Church - Sunday December 19: Port and Christmas cake after mass. All Welcome.

St Brigid's Church - Sunday, December 19: Cuppa and Christmas Cheer after mass. All Welcome.

Anointing Mass - Ballan:- December 22 at 10.30 am: Fr Sajan will celebrate an anointing mass for the

parishioners of Bungaree and Gordon at St Brigid's Church, Ballan on Wednesday, 22 December at 10.30 am.

Liturgy Readings: The Parish is inviting all parishioners – young and old – to consider volunteering for liturgy readings this coming year. The Parish is especially supportive of family groups who wish to participate. Coordinators of the liturgy roster are Monica Eastwood (Gordon), Anne Eskdale (Ballan) and Donna Simpson (Springbank), or contact the Parish Secretary at: gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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: \$350.00	Parish: \$1,968.00
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Columban Art Calendar-2022: If you wish to receive a copy of the 2022 Columban Calendar, please contact the Parish Secretary.

Anointing Mass - Ballan: December 22 at 10.30 am: Fr Sajan will celebrate an anointing mass for the parishioners of Bungaree and Gordon at St Brigid's Church, Ballan on Wednesday, 22 December at 10.30 am.

Ministry & Cleaning Rosters for 2022 - St Michael's Bungaree: The Parish is inviting all parishioners – young and old – to consider volunteering for the ministry and/or the cleaning roster this coming year. The Parish is especially supportive of family groups who wish to participate. Coordinators of the Ministry roster is Leah Hanrahan on 0411 859 544 and cleaning roster is Deb Ryan on 0417586107.

	READER/INTERCESSION	WEEDKDAY MASSES
18/19 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Micah 5: 1-4; Heb 10: 5-10	
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Katrina Griffiths	Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree (50)
Gordon-8.45 am	Kate Carey	Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Julie Dargan	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
26 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 1 Sam 1: 20-22, 24-28	
Clarkes Hill-8.45 am (venue changed)	To Be Arranged	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	To Be Arranged	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of each Month
1 January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God Num 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7	
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	To be Arranged	Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
2 January	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6	
Gordon-8.45 am	To be Arranged	Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan-10.30 am	To be Arranged	



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
Koroheit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am					

Anniversaries: Margaret Toohey, Jeanette Delbridge, John McCarthy, Ronald D. Graham, Roma Barry, Brian Barry, Shelia Gregory, Fred Begbie, Anne-Marie (Steenhuis) Block, Monica McDermott, Anne (Cullinan) Griffin, Fr. Daniel Devane and Eileen Elliott.

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, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, Eileen Haintz and Leon Burvill.

Baptisms: We welcome Eli Kettle who will be baptised this coming Sunday at St Brigid's Church, Ballan. We also welcome Matilda Johnson who was baptised last Friday at St Michael's Church Bungaree. Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so they may walk in the newness of life.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch: OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers will be preparing free, hot Christmas meals for people to collect on Christmas Day. This is the 30th year the parish has provided Christmas lunch for those in need. Bookings are essential, ph. 0419 975 914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made for those unable to collect meals.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal: This Christmas donate to Vinnies. Your gift can change a life. There are families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness this Christmas and your help can provide them with much needed essentials like food, clothes and a place to call home. Go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness>

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian Government has announced new Covid provisions to come into effect from 11.59pm tonight (Wednesday 15 December 2021).

We will no longer be required to check the vaccination status of those attending places of worship.

The Victorian Council of Churches has received the following response from the state government. "From tonight there are no longer vaccination check-in requirements at places of worship. We do maintain our strong recommendation that people are fully vaccinated. QR code check-ins are still required. Quotient requirements are no longer in force. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly recommended."

Ian Smith, Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches, added the comment: "So it seems we can open up all services to all members of churches and community for carols and Christmas events and services."

I renew my thanks to you all for continuing to support one another through these trying times. I rejoice that we will be able to gather for worship as a whole community again. May our prayer together in these final days of Advent and throughout the Christmas season bring us Christ's joy in abundance.

God bless you all. Bishop Paul December 15, 2021

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

The Nativity of the Lord Isa 9: 1-7; Titus 2: 11-14

St Peter's Clarkes Hill	6 pm	St Michael's Springbank	6 pm
St Michael's Bungaree	8 pm	St Patrick's Gordon	7.30 pm

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

The Nativity of the Lord Isa 52 :7-10; Heb 1: 1-6

St Brendan's Dunnstown	9.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	9 am
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Sunday, December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 1 Sam 1: 20-22, 24-28

St Peter's Clarkes Hill	8.45 am	St Brigid's Ballan	10.30 am
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Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

GOD IN OUR LIVES

Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice.

In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God.

Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine
forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord,
rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our
help. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. R.



3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon your
name. R.

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you
took no pleasure in them; and then he says:
Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He
is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the
second. And this will was for us to be made
holy by the offering of his body made once and
for all by Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**