

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C): ~ 4/5 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 Toohy, 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: \$307.60-	Parish: \$85.00
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$4602.40

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>. Please note that there are still mask requirements, density limits and caps in place for weddings, funerals, places of worship and other settings if the vaccination status of attendees is not being checked. The usual exceptions will apply.

Columban Art Calendar-2022 : If you wish to receive a copy of the 2022 Columban Calendar, please complete

the Order Form (next to the sign-in register) or contact the Parish Secretary.

Springbank Christmas Get-together: December 11th after mass next Saturday evening. All welcome.

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: \$307.00	Parish: \$270.00
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Columban Art Calendar-2022

If you wish to receive a copy of the 2022 Columban Calendar, please complete the Order Form (next to the sign-in register) or contact the Parish Secretary.

Newsletter Mailing List:

If you did not receive your e-copy of the newsletter last week or would like to receive an emailed copy in

the future, please forward your email address to: bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3 2021: The final edition of ODC 2021 is available for collection from all churches.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19): Updates available from <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churches-information-and-advice-2/>. See notice above.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
4/5 December	Second Sunday of Advent Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11		
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Chris Leonard		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon- 8.45am	Kerryn Taylor		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Lin Bowers		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
11/12 December	Third Sunday of Advent Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4: 4-7		
Springbank-6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree-8.45 am	A Elliot, O Elliot		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Catherine Green		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of each Month
18/19 December			
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	Karina Griffiths		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon-8.45 am	Kate Carey		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass

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				



Diocesan Masses: There are many opportunities for all who wish to attend mass regardless of their vaccination status. Where vaccination status is not being checked, attendance has been increased to 50 people. For these Masses, attendees are required to pre-book; wear a mask whilst indoors, check in via QR Code & use hand sanitiser.

Mon-10 am	St Patrick's Cathedral	5331 2933
-9.30am	St Michael's Bungaree	5334 0450
Wed 9.30 am	St Aloysius' Redan	0455 212 123
Thurs 10 am	OLHC Wendouree	5339 2302
Sat 9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	5332 6611
Sun 5.00 pm	St Alipius' Ballarat East	53326611

Recent Deaths: Michael James Rix

Anniversaries: Mary Toohey, Doreen Conroy, George Smith, Nonie Price, Fr Justin Woodford and Maisie Frawley.

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 and Eileen Haintz.

Baptisms: We welcome Lachy Simpson who will be baptised this weekend at St Brigid's Church, Ballan into our faith community. We also celebrate the anniversary of Toby Quinlan, Nellie Rix and Penny Rose Martin who were baptised during the month of December. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so they may walk in the newness of life.*

Ordination to the Diaconate: Seminarians Matthew Restall and William Lowry will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, 10 December at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend. Attendance requirements for the Cathedral is QR code or registration upon entry and full vaccination status needs to be provided to the COVID check-in Marshalls.

International Volunteers Day--Sunday, December 5: Within our parish communities are many volunteers who provide their talents and time to contribute to the mission of our churches. We thank God for our volunteers who strive to make our parishes a place of welcome.

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>

Making a Scene at Christmas: A display of over 500 nativities from more than 60 countries will be held in the Bridge Mall Ballarat on December 4 & 5, 11-20 2021. Entry by gold coin donation. All welcome. More info available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/making-a-scene-at-christmas/>

Praying with Pope Francis: Each month the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks all Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network - view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for December: **Evangelisation-Catechists:** *Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God. May they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the spirit.*

Christmas Dinner - 7th December @ 6.30 pm

This year's Christmas Dinner will be held this Tuesday at Donegan's Farm. The meal will be \$30/pp. Drinks at bar prices. If you wish to attend, please sign the booking form placed next to the sign-in registry or email the Parish Secretary at gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ring 0492 903 409. All welcome.

Christmas Mass Times:

Dec 24 (Christmas Eve)

Clarkes Hill	6 pm	Springbank	6 pm
Bungaree	8 pm	Gordon	7.30 pm

Dec 25 (Christmas Day)

Dunnstown	9.30 am	Ballan	9 am
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Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

05 DECEMBER 2021

TRUST IN GOD'S HELP

As we prepare for the Lord's return, today's readings encourage us to continue the journey we have started but challenge us as well. Baruch gave heart to the generation of the exile by speaking about the highway that God was building for their return. At the dawn of the time of the Messiah, John the Baptist makes use of the same image but reminds us that the highway that is being built in the desert is not only God's work but ours. Our co-operation is needed as the rough places of our hearts are smoothed, the mountains we force God to cross are made level, and the valleys filled in.

Paul calls the Christians of Philippi to take heart as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul was devoted to all Christian communities he had founded and ministered to, but the Philippians had a special place in his heart, and he called them his jewel and crown (cf. Philippians 4:1). They were a Macedonian community that had suffered much (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-3) and yet supported him greatly in his ministry emotionally, financially, and spiritually (Philippians 4: 14-16).

We see the encouragement that Paul gives them as they prepare for the Lord's return. He knows that it is not always easy to discern what is good and necessary but he reassures the Philippians by reminding them that the Lord who started the good work in them will bring it to completion.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**