

The Baptism of the Lord (Year C): ~ 8/9 January 2022

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: \$402.30	Parish: \$53.20
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$6,165.60

Christmas Dues as of 2 January: \$955.00.

Thank You:

We thank all who give generously to each of these collections. Donations to the Parish are vital to the sustainability of our parish community.

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

Update:

Fr Justin Driscoll will be on leave for one month. He will take up the position of Parish Priest during the second week of February 2022. Fr Sajan will continue to celebrate mass in the Parish of Gordon in accordance with the regular schedule.

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:	\$608.00	Parish:	\$445.00
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Christmas Dues as of 2 January: \$725.00

Ministry and Cleaning Rosters for 2022 - St Michael's Church, Bungaree:

The Ministry List and Cleaning Roster have been updated for 2022. If you have not yet received an electronic copy, hard copies of the List and

Roster have been placed at the back of St Michael's Church.

Columban Art Calendar-2022:

If you wish to receive a copy of the 2022 Columban Calendar, please contact the Parish Secretary.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
8/9 January	The Baptism of the Lord Isa 40: 1-5, 9-11		
Springbank-6.30 pm	To be Arranged		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree-8.45 am	Julie & Sophie Boyd		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Julie Dargan		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
15/16 January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 62: 1-5, 1 Cor 12: 4-11		
Dunnstown-6.30 pm	To be Arranged		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45 am	To be Arranged		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30 am	Anne Eskdale		Holy Hour – 1st Thursday of each Month
22/23 January	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Neh 8: 2-6, 8-10; cf. Lk 4: 18		
Clarkes Hill-6.30 pm	Julie Moran		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon-8.45 am	To be Arranged		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan-10.30 am	Winnie Zammit		



LITURGIES / WEEKDAY MASSES					
<i>Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 9.30am All Welcome!</i>					
	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: Margaret Conroy

Anniversaries: Francis Thyne, Joseph Palfi, Katalin Dusa, George Dusa, Brian (Mick) O'Neil, Gwen Shanahan, Maisie Carey, Jack Shanahan, Patricia Coulson, Patrick Moran, Sam Borg, Joe Teuma, Joseph Maher, Tess Dridan, Stephen Haintz, Susan McDermott, Maurine Kiely and Henry Spratling.

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.

Synod of Bishops: Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Go to: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Are you a Spiritual Leader? The Spiritual Leaders Program is an online (via Zoom) one-year, part-time program and will be a mix of selected Thursday evenings, Saturdays, and a 3-day Intensive. The program, which commences in March 2022, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Closing date for applications is 28 January 2022. Places are limited. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation in Malvern, VIC. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. Telephone 03 9890 1101 or go to: www.heartoflife.melbourne

Job Opportunity – Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission with responsibility for the Dioceses of Ballarat and Sandhurst (West Victoria) For a position description and short video on what it is like to work at Catholic Mission, go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/jobs-at-catholic-mission>. If you are interested, please submit a cover letter of 1 page and a resume no longer than 3 pages to employment@catholicmission.org.au.

Pathways Response Victoria The Victorian Catholic Bishops launched Pathways Response Victoria which will provide a further way of responding to those who have suffered abuse in the Catholic community. Pathways Response Victoria will be the successor to Towards Healing and The Melbourne Response from the start of 2022. More information is available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pathways-response-victoria/>

Highways and Byways Small Grants Program 2022 The 2022 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program is now open for applications. The theme is Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves – Together. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations, especially in rural and regional areas, for projects that focus on healing the land in holistic ways and increasing opportunities to build community through practical projects, leadership and skills acquisition, and knowledge transfer. For more information go to <https://highwaysandbyways.org.au/grants/>

Dropping off the Edge 2021. Jesuit Social Services have released their recent research into social and economic disadvantage in Australia. The report will be used to advocate State, Territory and Federal Governments for tailored, targeted and long-term work to create better outcomes for future generations. Learn more about *Dropping off the Edge 2021* at www.dote.org.au

ACU EthicsFinder *EthicsFinder* is a user friendly, expertly curated ethics search engine database intended to be a one-stop-shop for ethics inquiry, with a particular focus on ethical thought within the Catholic intellectual tradition. *EthicsFinder* links to thousands of influential and reputable articles, books, and videos which have been curated by an international network of close to 100 academics. From bioethics to environmental ethics, *EthicsFinder* spans a range of popular topics in life, love, politics, ethics, philosophy and culture, seeking to bring Catholic positions into dialogue with reason-based critique of those positions. *EthicsFinder* also arranges and collates Church teaching by topic and magisterial authority, offering users a unique and accessible way to navigate the vast breadth of Church teaching. It is our great hope that *EthicsFinder* will be immensely useful for students, scholars and anyone seeking to nourish their mind and their faith in these highly topical areas. You can view the *EthicsFinder* video launch at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy6_YVlk2X0. Go to the *EthicsFinder* homepage at <https://ethics.acu.edu.au>

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

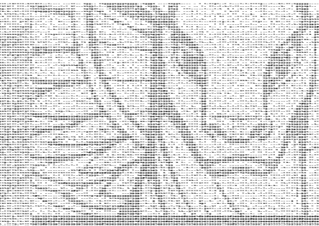
■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: 'Here is your God.' When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God's compassionate and gracious love.

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

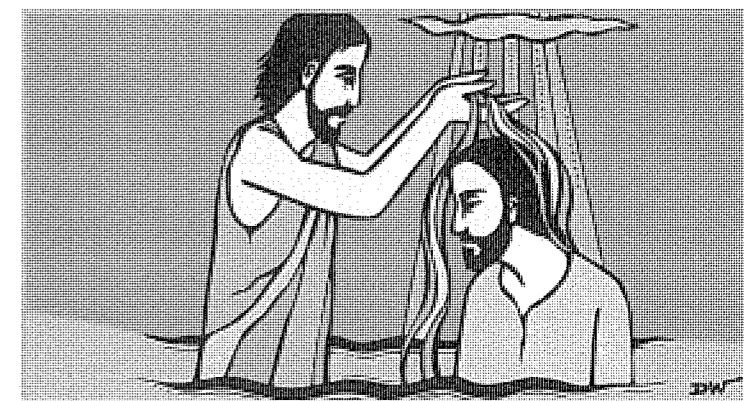
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R.



2. Above the rains you build your dwelling, / You make the clouds your chariot, / you walk on the wings of the wind, / you make the winds your messengers / and flashing fire your servants. R.

3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In wisdom you have made them all. / The earth is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast and wide, / with its moving swarms past counting, / living things great and small. R.

4. All of these look to you / to give them their food in due season. / You give it, they gather it up: / you open your hand, they have their fill. R.

5. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. R.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.