

4th Sunday of Lent (Year C): ~ 26/27 March 2022

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON

St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

Parish Priest: Fr. Justin Driscoll - ☎ 5368 9280

Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Lin Bowers, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Lin Bowers

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)



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

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Parish Schools

St. Brigid's Primary School
St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth:

☎ 5368 1015

www.sbballan.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Paul McDowell

☎ 5368 9495

www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections in Church last weekend

Loose:	Presbytery: \$345.25	Parish: \$130.00
Planned Giving:	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$7623.45

Anointing Mass—Thursday, 31 March, 10.30 am at Ballan:

Fr. Justin will celebrate an anointing mass for parishioners at St Brigid's Church, Ballan this coming Thursday, 31 March at 10.30 am. All Welcome.

Collection of Oils: If you wish to nominate as the Parish representative for the Collections of Oils, please inform the Parish Secretary. The oils are collected during the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, 11 April at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Reconciliation Program: Last Tuesday and Wednesday night (22nd and 23rd March), twelve children from our parish celebrated their first reconciliation with their families. The children spent four weeks preparing at home and learnt about forgiveness and reconciling with others, knowing God is always there for us. The children were well prepared and enjoyed a prayerful celebration with Fr. Justin.

We thank Fr. Justin, the schools of St. Patrick's Gordon and St. Brigid's Ballan and the sacramental team. We will be celebrating Eucharist and Confirmation commencing next term.

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 Leadership Team: Damien Ryan, Barry Sheehan, Di Reynolds, Leah Hanrahan, Tim Bennet, Maurice Maher & Inez French.

Safeguarding Officer: Accepting Nominations

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

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604

www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	N/A	Parish:	N/A
--------------------	-----	----------------	-----

Collection of Oils: Please inform Fr. Sajan if you wish to nominate as the Parish representative. The oils are collected during the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, 11 April at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Anointing Mass—Tuesday, 12 April, 9.30 am at Bungaree

Fr. Sajan will celebrate an anointing mass for

parishioners at St Michael's Church, Bungaree at 9.30 am. All Welcome.

Volunteer Positions Open: The parish is inviting interested persons to volunteer for the position of Sacramental Program Officer, and the position of Safeguarding Officer. If you would like to learn more about these positions contact Damien Ryan at: ryandjr@bigpond.com, phone: 0437125062.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
26/27 March 2022	Fourth Sunday of Lent Josh 5: 9-12; 2 Cor 5: 17-21		
Clarkes Hill-6.30 pm	Pat Prendergast		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon-8.45am	To be Arranged		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan-10.30am	Marie Shanahan		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
2/3 April 2022	Fifth Sunday of Lent Isa 43: 16-21; Phil 3: 8-14		
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	Bert Jarvis		Holy Hour – 1st Thursday of each Month
9/10 April 2022	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Isa 50: 4-7 Phil 2: 6-11		
Springbank-6.30 pm	To be Arranged		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree-8.45 am	N Jeffrey		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan-10.30 am	Margaret Green		

The ACBC Prayer for Peace & Justice in Ukraine

God of peace & justice,
who change the hardened heart and
break the power of violence, we
entrust the people of Ukraine to
you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let
them know not death but life, not
slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth
in love,
choosing peace not war.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 9.30am					
	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					

Anniversaries: Maurice Frawley, Lars Drendel, Nora Frawley, Sr. Presentation Marnell, Greg Slater, Eileen Sedunary, Pat Kennedy, Leo Davies, Jack Papworth, Lillian, Kevin & Jack Meiklejohn, Leigh Conroy, Emmanuel Muscat and Martin Spain.

We offer our prayerful support for the sick: Anna Bartaska, 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 Majella Franklin (nee Glenane).

Baptisms: We welcome Irah Donegan, Matilda Dickson and Harley Muscat who will be baptised this Sunday into our parish community; and we celebrate the anniversary of the following recent baptisms: Ryker Mullane, Amelia and Oscar Toohey, and Nina Trigg. *Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Feast of the Annunciation-Prayers for Ukraine and Russia: On Friday, March 25, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation, celebrating Mary's acceptance of the invitation to become the mother of Jesus. The consecration echoed the Pope's prayers that Mary, the Queen of Peace, might intercede for all those suffering from the current war in Ukraine and that Mary might pray for the blessing of peace throughout the world. Bishop Paul encourages all members of our diocese to join with Pope Francis in this prayer, both personally and in gatherings with others. Copies of the Act of Consecration placed in the churches.

Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal: In a matter of weeks, millions of people have fled the conflict in Ukraine. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on the latest activities by Caritas agencies on the ground www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news



Project Compassion – Fourth Sunday of Lent: From her life as a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants seeking to readjust to civilian life. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope *For All Future Generations*. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*. Donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes, by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Mass of the Oils: Monday, 11 April 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30pm. The Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese, particularly the unity and ministry of ordained priests. The three oils collected by our parish representatives – chrism, oil of the sick and oil of catechumens – will be used for the ordained, the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. Any COVID restrictions applicable at this time will apply to the Mass of the Oils.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2022: Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 11, 2022. Practice times are Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Easter Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday: 14 April: St Michael's, Bungaree at 7pm

Good Friday: 15 April: Stations of the Cross-St Brigid's, Ballan at 3pm (Lay lead)

Commemoration of the Cross-St Michael's, Springbank at 3pm

Easter Vigil Mass: 16 April: St Peter's, Clarkes Hill at 6.30pm, St Michael's, Bungaree at 8pm

Easter Sunday: 17 April: St Patrick's Gordon at 8.45 am; St Brendan's Dunnstown at 9 am; and St Brigid's Ballan at 10.30am

I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

“Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

“The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” ’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* ©2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2022. No 1924. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

THE SAVING WORD

27 MARCH 2022

GRACIOUSNESS AND MERCY

After many years in the desert journeying towards the land of promise, it must have been difficult for the people of Israel to comprehend that they had finally arrived. A new stage in their lives was beginning and it was fitting to rejoice and remember what God had done by celebrating the Passover. The God who had nourished them in the desert would no longer provide manna; it was no longer necessary since now they had their own land which had been provided by God's graciousness.

For Paul, God's graciousness and mercy were nowhere more apparent than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In the second letter to the Corinthians, much of chapters two to six are taken up by Paul sharing his understanding and experience of apostolic life with them. There had been considerable friction between Paul and the community and this, no doubt, had called Paul to reflect on the sort of reconciliation and harmony for which he longed and worked. Misunderstood and hurt, Paul looks to the heart of the gospel message, a message of a new creation through forgiveness. As Jesus had reconciled us to God by his own death, so we are called to be reconciled to one another.

The call to reconciliation and graciousness is continued in today's Gospel. The timeless beauty of the parable of the loving father and his two sons calls us to look to our own hearts. Are we ready to forgive and be forgiven? Will we share in the new creation that Jesus died to bring us?

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Josh 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.”

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33:2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

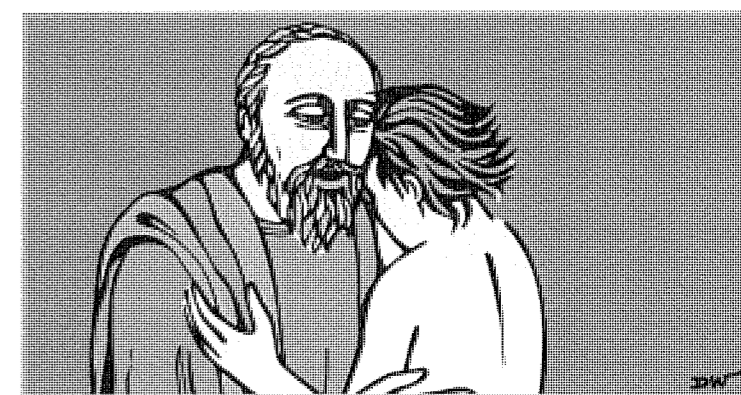
SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made



the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. “This man” they said “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he spoke this parable to them:

“A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

“When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father,

*Act of Consecration
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Basilica of Saint Peter
25 March 2022*

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (*Jn 2:3*). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.
Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.
Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.
Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.
Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.
Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.
Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.
Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (*Jn* 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.