

The Nativity of the Lord (Year A): ~ 24/25 December 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, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey

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

Principal: Ms 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 last week

Presbytery: \$434.95	Parish: \$436.00
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Christmas Dues: \$20.00

Thank You: We thank all parishioners for their generous donations.

Welcome: We welcome Fr Ed Moloney who will celebrate the vigil mass at St Patrick's Church, Gordon this Christmas Eve.

Parish End of Year Celebration: Many parishioners from the Ballan, Gordon and Springbank Church communities gathered at Donegan's farm for the Parish annual end of year celebration. Parishioners from the Bungaree Parish were also welcomed. The Parish Leadership Team used the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Lin Bowers, Beth Calleja and Marie Shanahan who have each concluded significant ministries in the Parish. Prior to moving out of the parish, Lin served the St Brigid's community in Ballan as well the Parish in a variety of ministries including being

one of the Parish Coordinators. Beth Calleja has served the Gordon community as sacristan for many years as well as assisting with the liturgy in so many ways at Sunday Masses, Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings. Marie Shanahan has served on the Parish Leadership Team as one of the two Ballan delegates for many years and previously on the Parish Finance Committee. Thank you Lin, Beth and Marie.

Parish Schools end of Year Masses: St Brigid's and St Patrick's School communities celebrated their end of year Masses and Year 6 graduations in the Ballan and Gordon Churches during this past week. We pray for the graduating Year 6 students of our schools and thank our Principals Jayne Bosworth and Paul McDowell, the Religious Education Leaders Therese Winter and Libby McKew and each of the members of the staff of our two parish schools for their service to our schools in 2022.

2023 Columban Art Calendar: Cost: \$10. Calendars will be available in the New Year.



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, Dianne Reynolds, Dom Prendergast, Marty Forbes, Chris Frawley & Inez French.

Parish Secretary/Parish Office (Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5334 0450 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

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 fortnight:

Presbytery: \$843.00	Parish: \$375.00
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Thank You: Your donations are sincerely appreciated.

Parish Schools end of Year Masses: St Mary's Clarkes Hill and St Brendan's Dunnstown schools celebrated both Graduations and End of Year Thanksgiving masses last week. The staff did a fabulous job of having the children well prepared and everything organised so that all went smoothly. This year we farewell Stella and Liam at St Mary's and Kade, Sienna and Bonnie from St Brendan's. The graduation of Sienna Cahir and Kade McKay from St Brendan's signifies the end of an era for both the Cahir and McKay families, but more significantly the end of an era for

86-year-old Nellie Leonard. Her connection comprises 16 years as mother, 20 years as a grandmother and 13 years as a great grandmother.

We are all so proud of our Year 6's as they come to the end of their primary school years. Our school communities wish them all well as they continue their life journey at their respective schools, and we know that they will go on to achieve great things in their lives.

2023 Columban Art Calendar: Cost: \$10. Calendars will be available in the New Year.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
24 December 2022 Christmas Eve	The Nativity of the Lord Isa 9: 1-7; Titus 2: 11-14		
Ballan – 5.30pm	Rosemary Canavan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6pm	Powell Family		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 6.30pm	Kerryn Taylor, Therese Winter		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month
Springbank – 7 pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree – 8pm	Damien Ryan		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
25 December 2022 Christmas Day	The Nativity of the Lord Isa 52; 7-10; Heb 1: 1-6		
Dunnstown – 9am	Liz Hanrahan		
31 December/1 January 2023	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Num 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis		
7/8 January 2023	The Epiphany of the Lord Isa 60:1-6; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree

LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES					
	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
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 6.30pm - 1st Sunday ~ Daylesford 6.30pm - 3rd Sunday Sunday Masses ~ Creswick 9am – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday; Daylesford 10.30 am – 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday					

Adoration of the Shepherds (1622) by Gerard van Honthorst depicts the nativity of Jesus. Public Domain



Recent deaths: John Britt, Margaret Price

Anniversaries: Lorraine Elliott, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Annie (Snow) Prendergast, Roy Tynan, Shelia Gregory, Shelia Gregory, Kathleen Hall and Marie Graham

We offer our prayers for the sick: Lyla Geary, Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Moira Myers, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner, Chaiel Balcombe Jackson and John Healy

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for December: For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: *We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.*

Bishop Paul Bird's Christmas Message: Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 'Showing Kindness' has been published in the Ballarat e-News, Edition 118 - December 19, 2022. Go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>
Printed copies of his message have also been placed in all the churches.

RCIA for Children: We are inviting expressions of interest from parents who seek baptism for their children who are 7 years and older who have not yet been baptised. *Expression of Interest Forms* have been placed in the churches or ring the Parish Office (mobile: 0492903409).

Bishop's Appeal (Christmas Appeal): The Christmas Appeal will be held this weekend. This Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to the diocese for assistance. Total donations in 2021 were \$33,000. The Parish of Gordon's contribution last year was \$575.30.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal: Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or info@lifestyletravel.com.au

Helping those affected by floods: St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions: Call 13 18 12 or visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>. Make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful on the mountains, / are the feet of one who brings good news, / who heralds peace, brings happiness, / proclaims salvation, / and tells Zion, / 'Your God is king!' / Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, / they shout for joy together, / for they see the Lord face to face, / as he returns to Zion. / Break into shouts of joy together, / you ruins of Jerusalem; / for the Lord is consoling his people, / redeeming Jerusalem. / The Lord bares his holy arm / in the sight of all the nations, / and all the ends of the earth shall see / the salvation of our God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97: 1-6. R. v. 3

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

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3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia!



**TODAY IS BORN
OUR SAVIOUR,
CHRIST THE LORD!**

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2: 11

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the

THE SAVING WORD

25 DECEMBER 2022



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14
A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2: 10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world: / today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2: 1-14
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**