

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A): ~ 3/4 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: \$690.30		Parish: \$110.00
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Thank you: We sincerely thank all who give so generously to these collections.

Mass at St Brigid's Church, Ballan: Fr Justin will celebrate mass this Thursday at 10.30 am. All welcome.

Cemetery Mass: We thank Fr Justin who celebrated his first cemetery mass at Gordon, as well as all the volunteers who helped make it such a noteworthy event, particularly Monica, Joan, Pat, Donna and Tony for their invaluable assistance.

Community Meeting: Fr Justin will convene a Community Meeting at the Gordon Church, Sunday, 4 December after 8.45 am Mass.

Christmas Gathering: Parish dinner on Tuesday, 6 December at Donegan's Farm, 6.30pm; Cost \$30 per head. Please complete the *Christmas Dinner Booking Form* after mass or call the Parish Office on 53689280. All Welcome.

End of Year School Masses: St Brigid's Ballan: Wednesday, December 14 at 1.30pm; St Patrick's Gordon: Thursday, December 15 at 2pm



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: \$NA		Parish: \$NA
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Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3, 2023: Feel free to take copies homebound, to nursing homes, hospitals etc. to spread the good news of the diocese.

Bungaree Church Cleaning: Thank you to everyone who has assisted in cleaning the Bungaree church throughout 2022. The annual deep clean will take place on Monday 5th December at 7.00 pm. Both men and women, as well as new volunteers would be very welcome. Anyone

wishing to join the roster for 2023, please contact Debbie Ryan on 533402234.

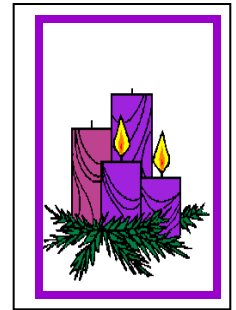
End of Year School (Graduation) Masses: St Brendan's Dunnstown: Tuesday, December 6 at 6pm; St Mary's Clarkes Hill, December 8 at 6 pm.

Anointing Mass: St Michael's Church, Bungaree on Thursday, December 15 at 9.30am. All Welcome

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
3/4 December 2022	2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A) Isa 11: 1-10; Rom 15:4-9		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To Be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
10/11 December 2022	3rd Sunday of Advent Isa 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	T Elliott		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Julie Dargan		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month
17/18 December 2022	4th Sunday of Advent Isa 7: 10-14; Rom: 1: 1-7		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit		

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 Masses ~ Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 6.30pm - 1st Sunday ~ Daylesford 6.30pm -3rd Sunday (Jan onwards) Sunday Mass ~ Creswick 9am – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday; Daylesford 10.30 am – 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday					



Recent deaths: Matthew Prendergast

Anniversaries: George Smith, James Conlan, Sarah Franklin, Nonie Price, Fr Justin Woodford, Maisie Frawley.

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

Baptisms: We welcome Poppi Miller, daughter of Zackary and Monique, and Harlie Bartholomew, daughter of Dion and Chantelle, who will be baptized this Sunday at St Peter’s Church, Clarkes Hill; and Tommy Blanchard, son of Cameron and Melissa, who will be baptised at St Brigid’s Church, Ballan into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your Spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

Thank You: We thank the Pootilla Cemetery Trust and the Gordon Cemetery Trust for their assistance in the management of our local cemeteries. Although inclement weather necessitated the celebrating of the Pootilla Cemetery mass at St Michael’s, Bungaree, the Gordon Cemetery mass was able to proceed as planned. The parishioners of Bungaree and Gordon are extremely grateful to the men and women who volunteer to maintain the cemetery grounds and very appreciative of the work required to ensure the cemeteries looked so well during November.

International Volunteers Day – December 5: Volunteering Australia proudly supports International Volunteer Day (IVD) to raise awareness on the important role volunteers play in responding to challenges facing the world. The 2022 theme is “Solidarity through Volunteering”. There are millions of volunteers in Australia and the contribution that they make is enormous. IVD is an opportunity to acknowledge and thank our volunteers. This year we asks people to Volunteer now for our common future, and take action now for people and the planet <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/events/international-volunteer-day/#/>

Accepting Orders: Order Forms for the 2023 Columban Art Calendar have been placed in the churches. Please list your name if you wish to purchase next year’s Columban Art Calendar. Cost: \$10. Alternatively, contact the Parish Secretary at bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ring 0492 903 409.

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).

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

Advent Anointing Masses (Parish of Gordon)

St Brigid’s Ballan at 10.30am Thursday December 15th St Patrick’s Gordon at 10.30am Tuesday December 20th and Ballan Hostel at 10.30am Thursday December 22nd

Christmas Mass Times

Parish of Gordon - Christmas Eve Masses (Saturday December 24th)

5.30pm St Brigid’s Ballan 6.30pm St Patrick’s Gordon 7.00pm St Michael’s Springbank

Parish of Bungaree

6pm St Peter’s Clarkes Hill 8pm St Michael’s Bungaree – Christmas Eve

9am St Brendan’s Dunnstown Christmas Day

Parishes of Daylesford and Creswick

8.30pm Daylesford Christmas Eve and 9.00am Creswick Christmas Day

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

4 DECEMBER 2022

CHANGE OF HEART

By the time Isaiah wrote, Israel had had some centuries of experience of kings, both good and bad. In that time there had been plenty of opportunities to learn what were the qualities that marked an ideal king – the presence of the spirit of the Lord, wisdom, insight, integrity, fairness, faithfulness, and concern for the poor. The longed for messiah would establish true quality of life, where even natural enemies would be able to live in peace.

One of the vexing problems Paul addressed among the Christians of Rome was how to overcome division and encourage tolerance, understanding and peace. His solution was to use the example of Jesus' tolerance and love as the basis and springboard for our way. In this way, even Jewish and Gentile Christians who were divided on the issue of food laws, would be able to live in peace with one another as they waited for the Lord's coming.

As John the Baptist began his ministry the time of the messiah, longed for by Isaiah, was finally dawning. The hope that had sustained generations was now being realised. John looked upon the evils of his day and saw that while the messiah was soon to return the people were not yet prepared to greet him. They mistakenly relied on belonging to the people of Israel by virtue of their birth. John saw that such children of God were as plentiful and as worthless as the stones that made farming so difficult. Then, as now, what was called for was a change of heart and an openness to the invitation to prepare for the Lord's coming among us.

FIRST READING

Isa 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loin-cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS

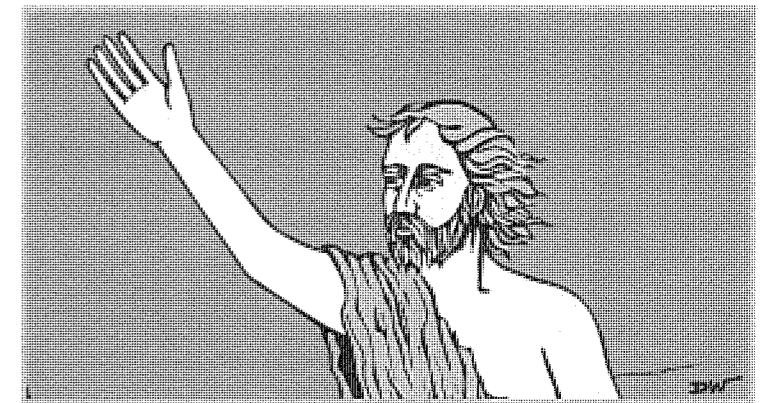
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

R. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. R.

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have



pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. R.

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

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