

2nd Sunday of Easter (Year A): 15/16 April 2023

We are child safe
Parishes, committed to
safeguarding children,
young people &
vulnerable adults.

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, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley, Mark Conlan
Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
Parish Secretary/ Parish Office (Wednesday/Thursday 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

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
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Collections last week

Presbytery: \$749.80	Parish: \$663.85
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Easter Dues: \$486.00 **Caritas:** \$536.60

Thank You: We sincerely thank all who parishioners who give so generously to these collections.

Mass at Ballan: This Thursday, 10.30am on April 20th

St Brigid's Ballan monthly Vigil Mass: Following the indication of preferences by parishioners at Ballan, the monthly Saturday Vigil Mass (4th Sunday of the month) will be celebrated at 6.00pm throughout the coming months commencing next week, **6.00pm** on Saturday April 22nd.

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

With Holy Week and Easter celebrations being held in each of the Churches, many parishioners were involved in the preparation, planning and celebrations. Thank you to all involved in Holy Thursday at Gordon, Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Ballan, the Good Friday Passion Liturgy at Springbank, the Easter Vigil at Springbank and Easter Sunday at Ballan including the Baptisms of Jayme and Levi Naeff.

Springbank Church break in: We are saddened to report that St Michael's Church, Springbank and St John's Anglican Church, Bungaree were burgled over the Easter Weekend. Our computer used to play music was stolen.

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 (Tuesday 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 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
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Collections last week:

Presbytery: \$ 625.00	Parish: \$ 320.00
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Easter Dues: 535.00 **Caritas:** \$140.00.

Thank You: We are deeply appreciative of your generosity in supporting our parish communities.

Fr Sajan – On Leave: Fr Sajan will be returning to India next week for one month. We wish him an enjoyable holiday with his family and friends and look forward to hearing of his reflections on Indian society after four years away.

While Fr Sajan is on leave, our regular weekend masses will be celebrated by supply priests. For this coming April 22nd, Fr Kevin Maloney will celebrate the vigil mass at Clarkes Hill.

Please note: No weekday masses will be held at St Michael's Church Bungaree while Fr Sajan is on leave.

School Enrolments: Enrolments are now open at St. Brendan's, Dunnstown and St. Mary's, Clarkes Hill. Please contact the schools for a personalised tour. All welcome!

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
15/16 April 2023	Second Sunday of Easter Acts 2: 42-47, 1 Pet 1: 3-9		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Lloyd Lamb	Rosemary & Michael Canavan	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
22/23 April 2023	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2: 14, 22-33; 1 Pet 1: 17-21		
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Con Powell	Joan Powell	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 6.00 pm (new time)	Tania Hoffman	Jim Leahy & Julie Dargan	Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
29/30 April 2023	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2: 14, 36-41; 1 Pet 2:20-25		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Mark Conlan	Ciaran, Janine & Connor O'Donohue	Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of every month

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 / Ballan	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan		Ballan
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 5 pm 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					



<https://www.sibny.org/second-sunday-of-easter->

Recent Deaths: Marie Maher-Graham, John Egan (Eganstown), Anne Meich (Ballarat)

Anniversaries: Bill Molloy, Jill Fradd, Sr Maureen Connelly RSM, Sr Margaret Houlihan RSM, Carmel Fitzgerald, Jack Canty, Margaret and Douglas Trounce, Frank Conroy, Brian Munn, Andrew Sherry and Peter Molloy.

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, John Healy and Elaine Conlan.

100th Birthday Celebration: In anticipation of Sheila White's 100 birthday on April 29th, the Millbrook community are celebrating this milestone on Sunday April 16th with a drop in at the Millbrook Community Centre from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Gerry and Mary Simpson of Springbank, celebrating 60 years since they were married. Recognition of this anniversary was made to Mary and Gerard at the Easter Vigil Mass at Springbank.

Easter Message 2023



I write these words on March 30, 2023, exactly a year before we celebrate a special jubilee, the 150th anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius IX issued a decree establishing the western part of Victoria as a distinct diocese, with the Murray River as the northern boundary and the sea as the southern boundary. We continue to echo the Pope's decree in our diocesan vision statement, beginning with the words "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

Our 150th anniversary next year will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care in our diocese today. The anniversary will also be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come.

Since my last Easter message, the Australian Plenary Council has met to consider a wide range of issues of concern to our Catholic community throughout Australia. The Council encouraged us to find ways in which all the members of the Church might be engaged in the life of the community and share in the mission to spread the gospel. In a similar vein, Pope Francis has called us to develop a "synodal" way of living in which the whole community walks together. He has highlighted the value of listening to one another as we all seek to discern what the Holy Spirit wishes us to do in response to the many challenges facing the world in our time. In line with the calls of the Plenary Council and Pope Francis, I propose some steps for us as a diocese in the next few years.

First of all, I ask each parish to make 2023 a year when you focus on the leadership in the local community, through forming or developing further a parish pastoral council or leadership team according to your local circumstances. In 2024, as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of our diocese, we will hold a Diocesan Assembly, bringing together representatives of the leadership teams in our parishes and schools, to consider how we might develop the leadership in our communities in the future. Following the 2024 Assembly, we could form a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council to help us fulfil our mission to share the gospel with the wider community, as well as helping us develop the pastoral services we provide throughout the diocese.

Then, in 2025, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council would lead the preparations for a Diocesan Synod to be held in 2026-2027. That Diocesan Synod would consider how we are to implement the various decrees of the Australian Plenary Council in our diocese. I hope that all our parishes and schools and all the organisations in our diocese will walk together in these steps over the next few years.

As we approach the great feast of Easter, I take confidence in the promise of the Risen Christ, that he will be with us as we gather in his name and as we seek to fulfil the mission he has entrusted to us. As we look to the 150th anniversary of our diocese, I give thanks that Jesus has guided our communities through the years so far and I pray that he will continue to guide us in the years ahead. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him;

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / A (OF DIVINE MERCY)

16 APRIL 2023

FAITH: A PROMISE OF LIFE

How many times have you heard people relate stories and then say, aware that the story does not do justice to the experience, 'You had to be there'? When we read of those early days of the Church, when the community was so united in faith, love and prayer, we can find ourselves wishing to have been there. Imagine the disappointment of second-generation Christians who had missed out by only a few years! The story of Thomas' doubt, disbelief and disappointment would have been partly preserved to encourage such Christians. Decades later, they were invited to see that while they were not part of the original experience, their faith was all the more precious because it was not based on being an eyewitness. It also served as a reminder not to be too quick to idealise the early life of the Church; even then the road to mature faith was not an easy one.

Late in the first century, the first letter of Peter set out to build up the faith of a community that felt caught between the resurrection and Jesus' final return. Like us, they may have felt that they had missed out on something precious, but Peter reminds them that their faith is a tremendous gift and promise of the life that lies ahead. The road to a mature faith is not easy and there are problems to be encountered from both within and outside ourselves. These very struggles purify our hearts and prepare us for what is to come.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (or Alleluia!)

1. Let the sons of Israel say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let the sons of Aaron say: / 'His love has no end,' / Let those who fear the Lord say: / 'His love has no end.' **R.**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling / but the Lord was my helper. / The Lord is my strength and my song; / he was my saviour. / There are shouts of joy and victory / in the tents of the just. **R.**

3. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the corner stone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. / This day was made by the Lord; / we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! / You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; / happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them