

5th Sunday of Easter (Year A): 6/7 May 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 (ending 30 April 2023)

Presbytery: \$551.95	Parish: \$ 102.00
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Mass at Ballan: Mass this Thursday, May 11th at 10.30am.

Parish Leadership Team meets on Wednesday evening May 10th at 7.00 pm in the Gathering Space of the Ballan Church.

Confirmation Preparation: Welcome to the children and their families preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. The children will be dismissed from the 10.30am Mass at St Brigid's Ballan to be led through part of the preparation

in our Family based, Parish Coordinated and Catholic school supported sacrament program. Confirmation will be celebrated at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Ballan on the Feast of Pentecost, Saturday May 27th with Bishop Paul Bird.

Mass Counts start on weekend May 6-7:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting forms will be placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed forms will be collected after the weekend mass.



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 fortnight:

Presbytery: \$NA	Parish: \$NA
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Welcome: We welcome Fr Rupert Bowd to the Parish of Bungaree. Fr Rupert will celebrate the Vigil Mass at St Brendan's Church, Dunnstown at 6.30 pm.

Fr Sajan – On Leave: Fr Sajan has returned to India for one month. We wish him an enjoyable holiday with his family and friends. While Fr Sajan is on leave, our regular weekend masses will be celebrated by supply priests.

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

Mass Counts start this weekend May 6-7:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting forms will be placed in the Churches. Please nominate parishioners who will record the count for every Mass held in the parish on each of the four weekends. The completed form/s must be returned to the Parish Office by the end of the month.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
6/7 May 2023	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2: 2-9		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Jane Bosworth	Lorraine deSpirt & Vikki Boka	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
13/14 May 2023	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3: 15-18		
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Bungaree – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Margaret Green	Eddie & Mary Cassar	
20/21 May 2023	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11; Eph 1: 17-23		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Trish Ryan		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Sat -Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
Ballan – 10.30 am	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims and Family	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 6pm* 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Ballan* Clarkes Hill	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					



Anniversaries: Kathleen Gleeson, Helen Ronan, Eddie Clark, Monica Kelly, Jack McGuigan, Carmel McAloon, Arthur Gore.

Baptisms: We pray for Jack Thomas Bell, son of Adam and Lauren Bell, and Hannah Mae Zahra, daughter of John and Jay Zahra, who will be baptised this Sunday at St Brigid's Church Ballan and welcome them into our faith community. *Lord God, strengthen your spirit in them, so that they may walk in the newness of life.*

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.

Praying with Pope Francis: Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions encourage faith, renew hope and call us to loving service. The Pope's monthly video forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for May-for church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Lord, hear us.

Visit of Father Robert McCulloch: Fr Robert will be in Ballarat on Monday, May 8 and will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 12.05pm. Following Mass he will give a presentation in the Mary Glowrey room, updating us on current events in Pakistan and beyond. A light lunch will be provided. Donation envelopes will be available. Entry by donation. Enquiries to ph. 0401 175 045

CWL Reflection Day: The Catholic Women's League Ballarat Diocesan Committee invites you to a Reflection Day at St Mary's Church, Warracknabeal on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The day will begin with Mass, celebrated by Fr Matthew Restall, at 10.30am. Lunch, prayer, guest speaker will follow Mass. Enquiries to Frances, ph. 0458 317 815 or Carmel, ph. 0401 175045.

Thank You from Caritas Australia: All donations should be forwarded to Caritas before the end of May. Please bring your Project Compassion Box or envelopes to church by next week or contact the Parish Office 0492 903 409 to arrange a collection date.

For a Synodal Church: Women to vote in Synod assembly for first time:

Pope Francis has approved changes to allow lay women, including religious sisters, and lay men, to take part as full members of the Synod summit in October, emphasising that it restores a model of the Church as the "People of God" and where the hierarchy is in close relationship with the laity.

Pope St Paul VI established the Synod of Bishops in 1965, at the end of the Second Vatican Council, and since then its gatherings have been made up of bishops, ordained presbyters and male religious.

The changes, which mean that 75 per cent of the Synod assembly this October will be bishops and 25 per cent non-bishops, are seen as a move by the Synod away from a gathering of the hierarchy towards a Synod of the people. Notably, the central organising office in Rome is titled the "General Secretariat for the Synod" rather than the secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

Announcing the changes yesterday, the Synod office pointed out that Paul VI said the Synod structure could be "further perfected with the passage of time", with Francis transforming it into the primary vehicle through which to implement his pastoral agenda.

Pope Francis launched a global "Synod on synodality" process in October 2021, which has seen an unprecedented consultation of the worldwide Church and will culminate in two Vatican summits in October 2023 and October 2024. The latest decision comes as the Synod completes the continental phase of the process, with a working document for the October 2023 meeting expected to be released at the end of May.

The Synod of Bishops will include female voting members for the first time, organisers revealed yesterday in a landmark development for the Church's Synod process.
Source: *The Tablet*.



you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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OPEN TO CHANGE

Living with change is often uncomfortable and unsettling. Ways of acting and seeing things no longer work as they once did. We look for direction and a sure guide, to know how to act in the present, and plan for the future. It may be a source of comfort to know that the early Church faced many challenges and needed to adapt to changing situations and contexts. The very growth of the community in Jerusalem had created its own problems and the apostles were stretched thin. Consequently, some groups were disadvantaged. It was a moment of tension and decision which led the apostles to call for deacons to be appointed so that the needs of the poor, and the need for the word to be proclaimed, would both be satisfied.

When Jesus spoke of his coming departure the disciples were rightly fearful. How would they manage without Jesus' presence to guide them? They felt ill-prepared for such change and distrustful of their own ability to find the right path. Addressing this dilemma, Jesus reminds them that his departure is how God will open the way to a future that they have not yet dared to imagine.

To deal with changes creatively we need a solid core on which we can rely. Peter stresses that steadfastness in the face of opposition and misunderstanding is an essential requirement in the life of a disciple. For others Jesus is a stumbling block, but for believers he is a precious stone. In a constantly changing world, there is one firm foundation, and we are called to trust in him and sing his praises.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am