

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A): 15/16 July 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; Out-of-hours: 0448 220 685
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: \$480.45	Parish: \$413.50
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Thank You:

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

Welcome:

We welcome Fr Sajan who will celebrate the 10.30am Mass at St Brigid's Church Ballan this Sunday.

10.30am Weekday Masses this coming week:

Wednesday 19th Daylesford
Thursday 20th No mass at Ballan
Friday 21th Creswick

Sacramental Program –Update:

The Eucharist preparation meeting was held on Wednesday July 12th at 7.00 pm, St Brigid's Primary School Ballan. Eucharist masses will be held at St Patrick's on 6th August at 8.45am and St Brigid's Ballan on 20th August at 10.30am.

Planned Giving Program 2023/2024:

Planned Giving envelopes for the new financial year are available for collection at the back of the churches.

If you wish to become a member of the Planned Giving program, please contact the Parish Office at:
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

We sincerely thank all parishioners who continue to support our pastoral activities, and the care and upkeep of our churches.



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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Sacramental Program Update:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was held on Thursday, 22nd June at St Michael's Bungaree at 5pm. Preparation for Eucharist and Confirmation will begin in Term 3 on Monday, 24th July, and will run for three consecutive weeks. The mass for Eucharist and

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 13th August at 8.45 am at St Michael's Church, Bungaree.

Diocesan e-News:

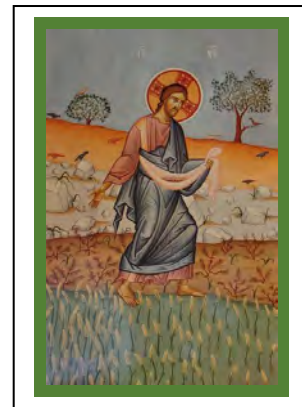
The diocesan e-News has been published with stories of news and events in the diocese. Go to:
<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/> The Pastoral Office invites parishioners to forward ideas for articles, photographs or stories related to Bungaree parish events (historical and current).

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES
15/16 July 2023	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 55: 10-11; Rom 8: 18-23		
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	Winnie Zammit	Eddie & Mary Cassar	Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
22/23 July 2023	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 12: 13, 16-19; Rom 8: 26-27		
Ballan – 6.00 pm	Rosemary Canavan	Bridget Sims & Family	Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Marty Forbes		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
29/30 July 2023	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 12: 13, 16-19; Rom 8: 26-27		
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	Lloyd Lamb	Tony & Edith Paarhammer	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* Clarke 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					

The Sower. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, North Carolina
https://www.stnicholasoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Christ_the_sower.jpg



Recent Deaths: Brian O'Connor (Ballarat), Mary Moran (Mercy Place Ballarat East)

Anniversaries: Leonie Burzacott née O'Donohue, Paul Hanrahan, Luke Moran, Pat Ford, Stephen Toohey, Frank Graham, Laurie McCarthy, John Duffy, Les Beacham, Anne McRory, Nikolas Barbara, Marie McEldrew and John 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, 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 cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. **Pope's intention for July – For a Eucharistic Life:** We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and be opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. Lord, hear us.



Synod on Synodality "Instrumentum Laboris"

On June 20th the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (known as the Synod on Synodality). Read it at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia:

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on July 1, 2023 – the Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia. The newly established parish will comprise the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein (est. 1965), Mildura (est. 1906) and Red Cliffs (est. 1953). More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/>

10 Years too long - It's time to end the trauma:

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) Ballarat has organized a Vigil to be held Wednesday July 19, gathering at 11:30am-12:30pm at Catherine King MP office, 5 Lydiard Street North followed by Vigil at Queen Victoria Square, opposite Town Hall. The Town Hall Alfred Memorial Bells will ring 10 times at 12 noon in recognition of the 10 Years of Trauma the action to let the Albanese Government know *It's Time to End the Suffering*. More info at: <https://aran.net.au> email: rarballarat@gmail.com or Margaret Ph:0402 498 644.

Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre (MMHC) Open Day - July 29:

MMHC are holding an open day on Saturday July 29 from 10am-4pm. Hourly tours from 10am. More information and bookings at: <https://www.mmhc.org.au/open-house-melbourne-at-mmhc/>

CatholicCare Victoria Winter Appeal:

At CatholicCare Victoria we help individuals, families and communities access the care and support they need, when they need it most. Everyone deserves the safety and comfort a home can provide. This winter, you can support people in need of a place to call home. Donate now! <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/16/winter-appeal>

Catholic Mission Timor-Leste Adult Immersion:

Catholic Mission invites you to learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste from November 4-12, 2023. This immersion will give you the opportunity to see the world through a different lens, you will witness the life-changing work taking place at the St Maria Mazzarello vocational School and the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale. Be prepared to come home changed and challenged. Cost is \$3990.00 per person (ex. Darwin to Dili, Timor-Leste). Register your interest at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions>

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
 see and see again, but not perceive.
 For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
 their ears are dull of hearing,
 and they have shut their eyes,
 for fear they should see with their eyes,
 hear with their ears,
 understand with their heart,
 and be converted
 and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 JULY 2023

THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today’s readings converge in their concern that we take time to wonder and reflect on the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth in the world, and in our own lives.

Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is a powerful statement of hope in the ability of God’s word to foster life and bring about growth. As the people of Israel struggled to rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his conviction in the power of God’s word.

As Christians, how do we maintain our hope when the world is in confusion? How can we speak of the power of God’s word when it is often challenged by our experience of the world desperate for healing and peace? After nearly 2000 years these questions may even be more critical for us than they were in Paul’s time. For Paul the key lies in the image of the world and ourselves being involved in the painful process of giving birth. Christians have already received the gift of the Spirit as a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus’ timeless parable of the sower invites us to take heart that despite opposition the seed of God’s kingdom has been planted in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and misunderstanding are surely present, but the growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the most pressing question of all is whether we have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that the kingdom will take root and grow in our world and hearts.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory

as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, ‘Why do you talk to them in parables?’ ‘Because’ he replied ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: