

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

21st /22nd December 2024

Our Parishes acknowledges this land's traditional owners & custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, & emerging.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BUNGAREE AND GORDON
 St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree
 St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

Parish Priest: Fr. Justin Driscoll, **Assistant Priest:** Fr Matt Restall
Parish Secretary and Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey
 Parish Office attended Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am–2.30pm.
Contacts: 0492 903 409 <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>(follow parish links)
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Schools & Principals

St. Brigid's Ballan: Mrs Jayne Bosworth 5368 1015 www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
 St. Patrick's Gordon: Mr Paul McDowell 5368 9495 www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
 St. Mary's Clarkes Hill: Ms Clare Scanlon 5334 5280 www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au

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

Parish Leadership Teams

Bungaree Parish: Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree) Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Ryan & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).
 Gordon Parish: Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

PARISH VISION: That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

2024 Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Mercy Place
	5.30pm	Ballan
	6.00pm	Ballarat East
	6.30pm	Clarkes Hill
	7.00pm	Gordon
	7.30pm	Buninyong
Christmas Day	9.00pm	Ballarat East
	9.00am	Dunnstown
	9.00am	Ballarat East
New Year's Day	(January 1st Solemnity of Mary)	
	9.00am	Bungaree
	9.30am	Ballarat East
	10.30am	Ballan

Annual Christmas Appeal in the Diocese of Ballarat

Our Christmas appeal is one way which the diocese of Ballarat can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these come from people who have personal links with the diocese. Last year the people of the diocese contributed \$32,000 to the Christmas appeal – thank you. The money was distributed as follows:

Caritas Lebanon Appeal	\$5000
Catholic Mission Myanmar Appeal	\$5000
St Columban's Mission, Peru	\$5000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	\$2000
St Vincent de Paul	\$5000
CatholicCare Victoria	\$5000
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$5000

Parishioners will be invited to contribute to the Christmas Appeal after communion at each of our Christmas Masses.

MASS DATES & TIMES	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY
21/22 December 2024	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mic 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10	
Clarkes Hill – 6.30 pm	Tim Bennett	Jill Prendergast
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	Marie Shanahan	Bridget Sims and Family
28/29 December 2024	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24	
Springbank – 6.30 pm	To be Advised	
Bungaree – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	Michael Ryan	Eddie and Mary Cassar
4/5 January 2024	The Epiphany of the Lord: Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6	
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Liz Hanrahan	
Gordon – 9.00 am	To be Advised	
Ballan –10.30 am	To be Advised	

Annual Christmas cleaning:

Clarkes Hill, Monday, December 23rd at 1.30 pm. Flowers most welcome.

Pre- Christmas Community Gatherings

Clarkes Hill	Port and cake on	Saturday December 21 st	after 6.30 pm Mass
Gordon	Get-together	Sunday December 22 nd	after 9.00am Mass.
Ballan	Cuppa on	Sunday December 22 nd	after 10.30 am Mass.

Recent Deaths: Kevin Andrews

Anniversaries: Brian Barry, Roma Barry, Pleasance Conroy, Fr. Daniel Devane, Eileen Elliott, Maria Graham, Shelia Gregory, Kathleen Hall, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Annie (née Snow) Prendergast, Roy Tynan.

We offer our prayers for the sick: Ray Broach, Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Thelma Keating, Anne Micallef, Owen Widdison.

More From the Diocesan Assembly:

A formal report on the Assembly held at Federation University Mt Helen on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our newsletters for the coming weeks will include reflections from parishioners in attendance as either delegates or facilitators. This week both Mark Conlan (Ballan parishioner and Leadership Team member) and Marty Ryan (Buninyong) offer their reflections on the Assembly.

Mark Conlan (Ballan, Gordon Parish) Delegate

The event was well structured and the offered all attendees an opportunity to contribute.

Concerns raised by the group

That the Assembly was not to be a talkfest and there were tangible actions emanating from the event.

Clearly Trust had to be re-established and that would be an issue that would not be easily re-established.

I also raised the need to improve our presence on social media as that is the platform to engage with the youth.

I believe that Trust and Social Media are the two elephants in the room that the Diocese has to clearly address.

Themes discussed

The concept raised by Pope Francis that our church not be simply a place of worship but more like a field hospital where the needs of the broader community are addressed.

Our group noted that men's groups, play groups and other groups had been established along this theme.

Steve Bigarelli gave a brief update from the Catholic Diocesan Foundation and noted its willingness to provide funding parishes for some projects that may align to this them. I was not aware of this Foundation and the opportunity it could provide to assist our parish.

Fr Justin gave a new perspective to the Holy Spirit and the analogy of the Wild Geese. The traditional image of the holy spirit taking on a Dove like presence was contemplated. The Wild Geese analogy provided the image of a Spirit that is challenging, wild and unpredictable. Having reared geese as a young boy I remember their wild noisy temperament.

There was also the theme of synodal discernment and how it would be enacted at the assembly.

I was impressed with the creativity of the groups and there were some good news stories coming from the group and it was not all glum tidings.

Marty Ryan (Buninyong, Ballarat East Parish), Facilitator

There was a terrific atmosphere of joy and hope as we gathered to share and listen to the stories of the peoples across the Diocese. The many stories were distinctive and unique to their context yet similar in many ways to the stories of others.

Participants finished the day on Saturday with their cup a little fuller than what it was when they arrived, and they left with a more clear understanding of what it was they were now called to do.