

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

Ballarat East Parish

Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson
03 5332 6611
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM

Bungaree and Gordon Parishes

Aileen Toohey
0492 903 409
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Ministry District Newsletter

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults
Child Safety Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Aileen Toohey

2nd Sunday of Lent (C)

16th March 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Monday Mar 17 th	10.30 am	St Patrick's Gordon	
Tuesday Mar 18 th	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Mar 19 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Mar 20 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
	10.30 am	St. Brigid's Ballan	
Friday Mar 21 st	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
		St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday Mar 22 nd	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Mar 22 nd - Vigil		Sunday Mar 23 rd	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Kay Cocking, Cheryl Strybosch, Donna Rousch

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Noreen Griffin, Anne Cheeseman

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Megan Dunn (McGuigan), Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons. Owen Widdison

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Ballarat East Parish:

Rose Consignano, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

Bungaree Parish:

Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).

Gordon Parish:

Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).



UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

March 18th following the 5.30 pm Mass

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

March 20th @ 6.30 pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are currently considering the reintroduction of Children's Liturgy within the parish. This program has been quite successful in the past and we would love to be able to offer it again. To run Children's Liturgy we would require two adults for each session, so we are asking for an indication from anyone who may like to know more about what is involved. At this stage we would plan to have the program on Saturday evenings where children would leave the church after the opening prayer and return during the Procession of Gifts. While out children participate in a program, hearing scripture and discussing it at a level which is appropriate to them. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact Cathy at the parish office.

MORNING TEA BUNINYONG

Morning tea is held at Buninyong after every 10:30 Mass. This has provided a great opportunity for the community to come together on an informal, social basis. We are seeking more people prepared to coordinate morning tea. The tasks are simple and only required two to three times per year. Tasks involve bringing milk turning on the urn serving tea and coffee and contributing something simple to eat. Others in attendance tend to assist with washing dishes and cleaning up afterwards. If you are unable to do your rostered day a simple phone call will usually find someone ready to do a swap. Two people or a couple are rostered on each occasion. If you would be interested in joining the roster please see Geraldine White after Mass or email her at thewhites25@bigpond.com

ANOINTING MASS

Volunteers are needed to help transport people to the anointing mass at St Alipius at 11:30 AM on Friday, April 11. The mass will be followed by a light lunch in the hall. Please let the office know if you can help transport people who would like to attend.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS IN THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Following 10.30am Mass at Ballan on Thursdays March 13th, March 20th, March 27th, April 3rd and April 10th. 10.30am. Facilitated by Dr. Rosemary Canavan, the Lenten Reflection will be guided by the framework of the *Conversation in the Spirit*. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and readings of the week as we come together as one ministry district. All are welcome to attend.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

On March 18th the 5.30 pm Mass will be followed by a 2nd Rite of Reconciliation. You are invited to join us for this in the leader up to Easter. Please contact Fr. Matt if you require further information.

AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION SESSION

On Thursday March 27th there will be an information session for those who would be interested in finding out more about support the pastoral care of residents in our local aged care facilities. If you are interested in attending this session please email Fr. Matt.

matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$1015
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$398.20

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Counting team this week: **No Counting this week**

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT SPRINGBANK

St Michael's Church, Springbank, will celebrate its 125th Anniversary with Bishop Paul Bird at a Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 29, 2025 commencing at 6.30pm with a light supper to follow. All welcome.

BAPTISMS

Dennis David Perry

Child of David and Penelope Perry

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Jan Marty has recently been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her work with World Day of Prayer Australia. The following was shared with the parish from this group.

'A Certificate of Appreciation and Badge was awarded to Jan Marty by World Day of Prayer Australia, at the 2025 World Day of Prayer, on 7th March. In making the presentation, Beth Rule, of the WDOP Victorian Committee, explained that this special Long Service presentation was in recognition of Jan's many decades of support and dedication to World Day of Prayer in the Ballarat District. Jan has been the WDOP delegate from Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church all those years, regularly taking her turn to lead WDOP Buninyong services when hosted at Sts. Peter & Paul. Congratulations, Jan. An Award well deserved!'

BUNINYONG CHURCHES GOOD FRIDAY "WAY OF THE CROSS" WALK

You are invited to gather with the Buninyong community on Good Friday for the 'Way of the Cross' walk. This is a great opportunity for the Churches of Buninyong to get together and be a witness to the wider community of our faith in Jesus. Please meet at the Town Hall steps at 8.30am. This walk is for young and old alike and it goes for about 30 minutes and covers less than one km. Each Church will be assigned a Bible reading. More details are available from Reverend Mark Schnerring of Buninyong Anglican Church (0401 022 107).

HARMONY WEEK: MARCH 17-23, 2025

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and coming together to celebrate the cultural diversity in your area and spread the message of "everyone belongs". The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is during this week on Friday, March 21. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is also important to focus on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

CELEBRATING ST PATRICK'S DAY

All parishioners of our Ministry District communities are invited to celebrate the feast of St Patrick on Monday March 17th with 10.30am Mass in St Patrick's Church Gordon followed by morning tea in St Patrick's Primary school multipurpose hall. This year the Gordon parish celebrates its 150th anniversary as a parish and the 150th anniversary of St Patrick's Church Gordon. On May 9th, 1875, the Church (although still incomplete) was opened by Archbishop James Alipius Goold. Later in 1875 Gordon was declared a parish, comprising of Gordon, Mt. Egerton, Ormond, Mt. Blackwood, Ballan and Bacchus Marsh. Fr Richard Ellis was the first parish priest.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE BALLARAT 2025 REUNIONS

Damascus College warmly welcomes the Classes of 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 to celebrate the 2025 Reunion Day! Join us as we reconnect, reminisce, and honour these milestone anniversaries on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear. The day will begin with a free welcome reception from 2.00pm – 4:00pm (doors open at 1.30pm for registration). Enjoy light refreshments, drinks, a campus tour, and some simple formalities during this shared gathering, followed by a group photo. The after party for each cohort will continue at their own private individual locations from 7:00pm onwards. Full event details and tickets at

<https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>

PARISH DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently looking to update the parish directory, so if you are a member of a current group within the parish please collect a questionnaire from the foyer of the church and complete it. The completed form should be dropped into the parish office by March 20th. We thank you for taking the time to help us update our parish related information.

The Caress of God

Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

(Luke 9:28-36)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Last week, the wilderness was a character in the gospel reading. This week, we find a mountain and a cloud featuring as characters in the narrative. These other-than-human characters and the prophets of old (Moses and Elijah) link Luke's story of Jesus to the Israelites' covenant relationship with God.

Wilderness, mountain and cloud also remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery where human and other-than-human Earth beings are transformed through encounter with the divine. For Pope Francis, "[s]oil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God" (*Laudato Si'* 84).

For Jesus, the mountain is already a place of encounter with God, a place of prayer. Luke has Jesus spending a night in prayer on an unidentified mountain before he chooses the Twelve. Jesus now takes three of his closest friends up another unidentified mountain where the aspect of his face changes and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, "appear" and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet.

This episode seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with this realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain. The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus and calls for a response: "Listen to him".

"Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet" (Deut 18:15). For Luke, Jesus is the prophet-like-Moses whom they must heed. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. The tents evoke once more the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of glory. We also need the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to hear the prophet-like-Moses in our times, we have to come to terms with the personal costs involved. Some of us actually need to go alone or together to a mountain top or to a place of extraordinary beauty in order to discover again the strength that comes from encountering the divine. I grew up in the shadow of Geboor (Mount Macedon), a "caress of God". I once climbed within view of Everest. I have climbed Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip. At such times of "attunement", I know the wonder of God revealed in the beauty of the earth itself even as I sense its fragility and susceptibility to destruction.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

2nd Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 9:28-36

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

3rd Sunday of Lent
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9