



# Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Incorporating worshipping communities at **St Mary's Church**, Brown Street, Dungog, **St Patrick's Church**, Rifle Street, Clarence Town, **St Helen's Church**, Park Street, East Gresford, **Sacred Heart Church**, Summerhill Road, Summer Hill via Vacy, and serving the surrounding districts.

## SUNDAY 28 AUGUST 2022

### 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

#### Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Administrator*)  
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

#### Parish Office & Presbytery

55 Brown Street, Dungog  
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au

#### Office Hours

The Parish Office is staffed on Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm & Fridays from 10am until 1pm.

#### Parish Bulletin

Items for inclusion in the Parish Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

Bulletin Coordinator—Lyn Barham (02) 4992 2110

#### Other Contacts

Clarence Town Val Preece—0403 251 434,  
(02) 4996 4474, or email  
vip\_1@bigpond.com

Gresford Faith Bannister

#### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School  
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420  
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

P: (02) 4992 1377

E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au

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#### A Pastoral Note...

Thank you to all those who have provided feedback on the new format of the Parish Bulletin and offered helpful suggestions about ways of using it better. It is, as they say, a work in progress, and any feedback you have is always welcome to ensure that it becomes a useful tool in assisting communication within our parishes.

As mentioned last week, the new website is starting to come together and pages are slowly being populated with the kind of things that need to appear there.

One of the aspects I would like to see appear there is a bit of a potted history of the two parishes and the churches within the parish boundaries. Given that there are folks within our community who have been here longer than I have (admittedly not a hard criteria to meet!), if there was someone (or someones) who would be prepared to give some thought to writing the content for that part of the website, I would love to hear from you.

In other news, you'll read elsewhere in this week's Bulletin some information about the upcoming celebration of Perpetual Day of Remembrance. My experiences in hearing and reading the stories of those who have suffered the impacts of these crimes has left an indelible mark on me. From my perspective, therefore, this is significant day in the life of our Church of Maitland-Newcastle and, as uncomfortable as it might be to acknowledge, it is important that we do so.

Fr Andrew

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize that they sit upon the traditional country of the Worimi people. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with this land. We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

## Clarence Town Morning Tea

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will take place after Mass on Sunday 4 September. Please bring a plate to share, and join other parishioners for some refreshment and chat.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### What's the cost?

*Jesus' message about humility is as relevant today as it was in the first century. It is part of human nature to want to fit in and to want to belong. Sometimes we are tempted to seek this acceptance at any cost. When our sense of belonging is achieved through the harming, humiliation or exploitation of others then the price is too high. When our desire for the latest fashion comes at the expense of others being able to simply live, then the price is too high. When we lift ourselves up by putting others down, then the price is too high.*

## Social Justice Statement

Australia's Catholic Bishops have used their annual Social Justice Statement to condemn the scourge of domestic and family violence, saying relationships must be "marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control." For more information or to read the full statement, visit [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

The Statement is also available for download on the Parishes website via the 'Resources' page.

## 2023 Pastoral Placement Program Applications are now open!

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The purpose of this program is to give participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese.

These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help people explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to [bit.ly/3OloKPz](http://bit.ly/3OloKPz).

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance

In 2020, Bishop Bill decreed the establishment in the diocesan liturgical calendar of "Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday" on the Sunday on or immediately before 15 September each year.

In doing so, Bishop Bill wrote:

*"In light of the dreadful history of sexual abuse of children by clergy and other people working for this diocese, we have undertaken all available measures to ensure the safety of children in our community today. We have also tried to meet the needs of survivors of abuse for support and redress, while acknowledging that their ongoing suffering cannot be healed by measures of financial redress or any other one-off measure or assistance alone. Among the needs expressed to me by survivors of abuse, there is also the need for the Catholic community to full acknowledge the crimes and failures of the past, in public ways, and to ensure that neither those who suffered nor the crimes themselves are ever allowed to fade from memory.*

*"Though it is not on the same level as the pain of those who were abused, there is also much hurt in the wider community. Many people can't get over being deceived and betrayed by individuals whom they took for good priests or religious, teachers or fellow parishioners. We have all to some extent lost our innocence. It is important for all of us, then, that we do not try to deny or suppress those hurts, but bring them into the realms of faith and prayer, both as a mean of community healing and as a stimulus to greater care for the survivors among us and for the generations of children yet to come."*

In 2022, Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 11 September.

On that day we, like the whole Church of Maitland-Newcastle, will dedicate our Sunday Masses to both remembering the past and committing ourselves to the conversion of hearts and minds that is required for our future.

Resources have been prepared to assist individuals, households, parishes and schools to mark both Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday as well as the Perpetual Day of Remembrance itself on Wednesday 15 September.

Those resources are available from the Diocesan website by going to [bit.ly/3AgC1Ug](http://bit.ly/3AgC1Ug). I commend those resources to your prayerful attention.

Fr Andrew

## Opportunities Outside The Parish

### Assertiveness - Trusting Your Own Inner Voice

This reflection event will be held on Tuesday 30 August 2022 from 7pm to 9.30pm via Zoom, and will explore: assertiveness - what it is and what it is not; why being assertive is adult behaviour that builds up everyone's strength and capacity to love; finding within ourselves that voice of God that echoes who I am as good in the eyes of God; what is it that distorts this perspective and how that influences my judgement and behaviour; being assertive with God; being with an assertive God. Led by Chris Chaplin msc (MSCX, Dip Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy, BTheol, Cert Spir Dir (Siloam)). Cost \$35. Book and pay by 26/8/22 via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Malvern VIC, email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel (03) 9890 1101.

### Art and Spirituality Workshop

An art and spirituality workshop will be held on 15 September at St Joseph's Community Centre, Kilaben Bay from 9am to 3pm. This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection.

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit.

Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith. Cost: \$25 To register, visit [bit.ly/3Adc6gh](http://bit.ly/3Adc6gh).

For further details contact Rose McAllister by email ([rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au))

**Go Make Disciples** is a formation opportunity that invites participants to explore the entire Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) over six sessions, beginning on Sunday 18 September.

Because the RCIA is the template for all initiation, including children, this is an important formation opportunity for all Christian Initiation ministers. View the flyer ([bit.ly/3PT9ZEO](http://bit.ly/3PT9ZEO)) for all details including dates, times, venue and registration.

Parishes who are looking to establish an RCIA

team for the first time, or who would like to introduce new members to an existing team, might seize 'Go Make disciples' as an opportunity to ensure members of your teams are immersed in the vision, principles and processes of the RCIA.

The ministry of Christian Initiation, with adults and children and their families, belongs to all the baptised. So, everyone is invited to participate in these two opportunities to be refreshed: all parishioners including teachers, experienced and new ministers, those who have an interest in discovering more about this ministry and would love to come rest a while. Such diversity will provide a rich formation space.

**Come Rest A While** Join us for a Reflection Day on Saturday 10 September in appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers. There will be an opportunity to listen, reflect, and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. For more details and registration, visit [bit.ly/3bIDpww](http://bit.ly/3bIDpww).

### Season of Creation: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

This annual Christian celebration calls us to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation. This year we will unite around the theme, "Listen to the Voice of Creation."

Join us online on 1 September at 7pm for an evening of prayer and reflection as we commence the Season of Creation 2023.

To register go to [bit.ly/3dSE7m5](http://bit.ly/3dSE7m5)

### Waiting for Purpose

We invite you to a period of waiting this Advent through connecting with each other in prayer and reflection. Our Diocesan Advent Reflection will be available from October 2022.

### Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Fr Greg Barker, Diocesan Administrator, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with the Federation of P&F Associations and the Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families, and parishioners for this special celebration.

Mass will be celebrated at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road, Medowie on Sunday 18 September 2022 commencing at 2.30pm. An afternoon tea will be hosted after Mass concludes.

For more information, please contact Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000.

## The Parish Diary...(for the week ahead)

22nd Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—29 August

Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist

Tuesday—30 August

Wednesday—31 August

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—1 September

**No Mass today—Fr Andrew celebrating the funeral of Tony Townsend in Newcastle.**

Friday—2 September

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday—3 September

Memorial of St Gregory the Great

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—4 September

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

**Psalm** Ps 67: "God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor."

**2nd Reading** Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

**Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 14:1, 7-14

**Memorial Acclamation** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August:

*"We pray for small and medium size businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities."*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Hospitality

*In the first century, hospitality carried with it certain rules and expectations. If you were the recipient of hospitality, there was an obligation on you to return hospitality if it were within your means. Hospitality meant more than feeding people. It meant extending welcome to people even if you didn't know them. There was an obligation to extend welcome and hospitality to anyone who asked for it. Travellers knew that they could enter a village and ask for a meal and a bed and they would be provided. Jesus reinterpreted this obligation of hospitality and extended to anyone in need.*

## Make A Difference—CatholicCare

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens provide thousands of meals across the Hunter-Manning region each month and help people who have nowhere else to turn. However, these important services receive no government funding, so we rely on the generosity of the community. Please give a gift today to help us provide more meals to people in need.

Your tax deductible donation will go directly to our local food programs, ensuring no one is turned away and that everyone is welcomed with a hot meal and a smile.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [bit.ly/3dgObox](http://bit.ly/3dgObox).

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** Shirley Wade, Allen Kearns, Tony Townsend.

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August:** Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Carmel Godwin.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.*

**Those Who Are Sick:** Maryann Smith, Tracy Copus, Daphne Bond, Norbet Egan, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Lyn Barry, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Bert Preece, Warren Wade, Kerry Copus, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Joanne Curry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Lyn Kerr, Roma Mead, Ron Holt, Michaela Brown, Marilyn Amos, Phillip Hartup.