



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 4 SEPTEMBER 2022

23RD 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

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

Pope Francis' General Audience Catechesis

This week, Pope Francis has launched a new series of catechesis during his weekly general audience on the topic of discernment. Given the significance of this topic in the life of the Church, both generally and specifically in light of the call for synodality, this catechesis might be worth following.

Read on for a summary of this week's catechesis, and to follow each instalment, visit bit.ly/3CR2ydK

Dear brothers and sisters: Today we begin a new series of catecheses dealing with discernment, the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives. In the Gospels, Jesus uses everyday discernment practised by fishermen and merchants to teach the importance of wisely choosing to live a life in accordance with God's will. Authentic discernment calls for knowledge, insight and experience but also the wisdom of the heart, firm commitment and unremitting effort. As an exercise of our God-given freedom, spiritual discernment seeks to know our place in the Creator's plan for ourselves and for our world. For our decisions, good or evil, can make the earth either, as God intends, a magnificent garden or a lifeless desert. True discernment, born of our loving relationship with God and our human freedom, brings with it a deep spiritual joy and fulfilment. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us in our daily efforts to live lives of holiness, wisdom and fidelity to the saving truth of the Gospel.

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.

Happy Fathers' Day

A very happy Fathers' Day to all the fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, godfathers, and those who have been father-figures of our parish and our parishioners.

May you be blessed in and by those you have fathered.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

I am told that, in most Middle Eastern languages, there is no word for 'prefer'. Perhaps influenced by extremes of heat and cold, the vocabulary of 'love' and 'hate' is used instead. No one can imagine Jesus 'hating' Joseph, but he clearly gave preference to his mission, even as a precocious 12 year old in the Temple.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers, imminently and over the generations, for persecution. This would include real-life situations of families denouncing a son or daughter, or a brother turning over a brother to the authorities.

Imagine a Chinese Catholic hearing this Gospel this morning, and this afternoon being betrayed by family members for remaining loyal to the successor of St Peter. Jesus exhorts such a follower to prefer this cross over what the family considers politically correct.

We could pause for a moment to pray for all families, torn apart for allegiance to Jesus in His Church, that they may be re-united in the peace of the Risen Lord.



Perpetual Day of Remembrance

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

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. I commend those resources to your prayerful attention.

As is always the case, our Perpetual Day of Remembrance marks the end of the broader Child Protection Week, which also has a range of resources available at bit.ly/3RsJsPd.

Fr Andrew



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.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

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.

For further details contact Rose McAllister by email (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) 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.



Embrace the Call to Global Mission

American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.



Palms Australia

[Enquire online](#) or **Ph: 0422 742 567** and [Register](#) for a Webinar on **Saturday 24 September at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from 16 to 28 October](#).

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)

23rd Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—5 September

Tuesday—6 September

Wednesday—7 September
5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—8 September

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Lochinvar for the funeral of Sr Marie Craddock rsj.

Friday—9 September

No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Maitland for meetings.

Saturday—10 September

Sunday—11 September

Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

Psalm Ps 89: "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge."

2nd Reading Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

Memorial Acclamation Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September:

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country."

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Radical poverty

The earliest Christian communities were characterized by a redistribution of all wealth and possessions to ensure that the needs of every single member were met. This was the first interpretation of Jesus' teaching to give up possessions to embrace discipleship. Modern religious life, grounded in the monastic traditions of the Middle Ages, embraces a radical poverty in order to free religious from societal notions of status and power so that they might more freely and openly serve others. Lack of possessions and wealth brings a humility and openness that is almost impossible when playing the game of 'keeping up with the Joneses'.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Give up my possessions?

We live in an era of extraordinary wealth in some countries contrasted against extraordinary poverty and need in other countries. Accumulation of possessions has become a driving force in our society. Flat screen televisions, iPods, multiple computers, games consoles, portable DVD players, multifunction cell phones are all 'must-have' items. The thought of surrendering such items may be almost impossible to consider. However, Jesus' message about being a disciple calls to us. How can some people in the world surround themselves with such luxuries while others don't have enough to eat? Does the love of 'possessions' blind us to the needs of others?

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Tony Townsend, Sr Marie Craddock rsj.

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.