



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 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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.

Bulletins can be downloaded from the website.

Bulletin Coordinator—Lyn Barham (02) 4992 2110

Other Contacts

Clarence Town Val Preece—0403 251 434,
(02) 4996 4474, or email
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Gresford Faith Banister
0427 536 248

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
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Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

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2022 marks five years since Lina's Project and Bishop Bill Wright establishing 15 September as a *Perpetual day of Remembrance* throughout the diocese.

A lot has happened in these five years, and particularly in the last twelve months or more. Our context is different, and context informs our feelings and understandings, our priorities and choices, our prayer and liturgy.

Two-and-a-half years of living with COVID-19 has opened our eyes, and the eyes of Australian society, to the broad spectrum of abuse including:

- The increasing incidence of domestic violence and abuse
- Ongoing child abuse in families: physical, sexual, emotional
- Lack of care and resources, and the abuse of the elderly both in aged care homes and our neighbourhoods
- Lack of care and resources, and the abuse of people with a disability, including our brothers and sisters who live with a mental health illness in care facilities and our neighbourhoods
- The sexual abuse and intimidation of women in society and some institutions structured around power, including our parliament
- Abuse of power in government institutions that disrespects all of us and our democratic principles including those of equity and justice
- Rampant abuse of creation, particularly of the earth which is our common home.

Our 2022 context also includes war in the Ukraine,

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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.

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

24th Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—12 September

Dedication of Sacred Heart Cathedral

Tuesday—13 September

St John Chrysostom

Wednesday—14 September

The Exaltation of the Cross

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—15 September

Our Lady of Sorrows

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—16 September

Sts Cornelius and Cyprian

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—17 September

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—18 September

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Dungog Morning Tea Today

Morning tea will take place after Mass today—all are welcome for a cuppa and a chat!

and political and military power struggles and posturing in Asia and the Pacific.

Violence in all its forms, and abuse in particular, exist on a very broad spectrum. The examples listed above are on the extreme end. At the other end are the tiny seeds of abuse which, if not challenged, grow into and enable the extremes. Our long standing 'Prayer for Turning on Light' names some of these seeds: dishonesty, disrespect, hidden agendas, silence, exclusion. Such behaviours continue in our society, communities and workplaces.

What are we – the Catholic community – learning from our experience of abuse within the Church? How are we changing? What are we noticing and speaking up about now our eyes are wide open? What are we doing differently? How can our story and experience of the historical sexual abuse of children break us open to be a force for good and a source of wisdom in our ever-changing context? We know this landscape inside out. We know it because of the courage of survivors who have spoken up, and the media who amplified their voices and told their stories.

The resources prepared to support the Church's prayer response to the *Perpetual Day of*

Remembrance continue to develop. Prayer is not our only response. It is, however, our unique response. The social workers, counsellors, police, media, doctors, lawyers, government and the many other support networks, including our own church networks, continue to respond to survivors and their families with their human presence and particular professional expertise.

The community of faith prays with its eyes and hearts wide open. The community of faith prays that it will be changed – 'it' being the church. The community of faith prays: for those who cannot pray, for those who have lost all hope and faith, for those who see no possibility of healing, no hope for a new day. The community of faith prays for the survivors of sexual abuse perpetuated by members of the Catholic Church.

The community of faith prays for those in our society who are standing up and speaking out and demanding change: those who speak up for the environment; those who speak up for women: people like Rosie Batty, Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins who name our unpalatable truths; family members who speak out about elder abuse and abuse of those living with a mental illness; people who are part of unjust systems and who name a truth and demand change.

The community of faith holds hope for those who are no longer able to hope. As the People of God whose life is grounded in Christ's Paschal Mystery we know and seek to proclaim a truth far deeper than human wisdom and logic. It is the truth that in the very worst, the very darkest, the most devastating and hope-less moments of life, God is there with us, suffering with us, waiting with us, and acting to bring new and unimagined life out of death.

In 2022 our context has sharpened the imperative to remember and reflect on the story of historic child sexual abuse in the church of Maitland-Newcastle. The need for prayer is even more urgent. As always, the point of our remembering and praying is that we will be changed so we will help to shine the light of Christ in all the dark places of our Church and our world. We pray as Jesus taught the disciples

*that God's Kingdom will come
and God's will be done.*

Resources to support our parish and individual response to the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* are available to download from the Parish Website. Visit the 'Resources' page.

Additional resources are also available from the Diocesan website.

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.

Website Update

The website continues to develop with more pages being populated each week. For those who would like to receive a notification when an item is added to the News section, you can now 'sign up' via the form on the right hand side.

As Parish Bulletins are now being posted on the website, those who sign up will receive an email letting you know when this takes place—so sign up to stay in touch!

If you've already been receiving the bulletin via email, please also go and sign up on the website so we can automate this function for everyone.

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 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.

Diocesan Clergy & Parish Leaders Retreat

The annual Diocesan Clergy & Parish Leaders Retreat will take place from Sunday 18 September until Friday 23 September. I am sure those participating would be grateful for your prayerful support during that week.

Because I included a significant time of retreat during my sabbatical leave this year, I will not be attending this year's retreat.

Fr Andrew

Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy. (Is. 2:5)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter. (Is. 5:20)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress. (Is. 5:30)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness. (Is. 9:2)
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

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Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm Ps 41: "My soul is thirsting for the living God."

2nd Reading Romans 14:7-9

Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine in the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:46-56

Memorial Acclamation We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

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."

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.

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: HM The Queen, Sr Marie Craddock rsj.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In September: Annie & Brian Maurer, Peggy Brennan, Godfrey Barry, Tony O'Hearn, Fr Brian Quillinan, Pat Byron, Marjory Neilson, Ivy Hinton, Arthur Sonter, Ron Neilson, Fr Peter Quirk, Tony & Mary Maurer, Kath Morrow, Frances Amy Young, Rowland Young and Dennis Melmouth, Dot Shurrey, Mary Moylan, Norm Barham, Eileen Godwin, Warren Trappel, Lachlan Tindall (Clarence Town), Brian Byron, Margaret Moule.

*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.