



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 2 OCTOBER 2022

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

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

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Parish School

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A Pastoral Note...

I have recently written in the column about the power of silence, reflecting on the significance of that 'absence of sound' that was to be found in various places during the recent ceremonial surrounding the funeral rites for Queen Elizabeth II.

At the end of that column I asked, somewhat rhetorically, 'what am I at risk of losing when I attempt to avoid silence, or do not allow for the possibility of silence in my life?'

It should surprise good folks not that having asked the question, it found a firm place in my brain and has been circulating back and forth ever since. I can't say I have an answer to that question yet, but I find myself in need of some sort of response to my own question.

Silence can be frightening and disconcerting, even for those who might be exposed to it on a regular basis. The choice to embrace all that the practice of silence can offer, however, also has the promise of deep riches if we're open to it.

Reflecting on the possibilities that silence offers has prompted me to seek more opportunities for silence. Having moved from a posting where such a possibility was difficult, my time here in Dungog & Gresford holds the promise of an 'easier' access to the possibility of silence—even if making use of the 'easier' access stills brings the chance of being disconcerted.

There will no doubt more in this column about silence and it's power, but until then have a blessed week

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.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will take place after the 9.30am Mass on **Sunday 9 October**. Please bring a plate to share, and stay to enjoy some conversation over a cuppa.

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will take place after the 8am Mass on **Sunday 2 October**. Please bring a plate to share, and stay to enjoy some conversation over a cuppa.

Mass at Summer Hill

Regrettably the weather situation hasn't improved our access to Sacred Hill Church at Summer Hill, and we've had to cancel the scheduled Mass there for Sunday 9 October.

Mass will be celebrated at St Helen's East Gesford at 5.30pm on Saturday 8 October instead.

As the weather hopefully improves, we look forward to be at Summer Hill again as soon as we can.

ServiceNSW Mobile Coming to Clarence Town

The ServiceNSW Mobile Service Centre will be returning to Clarence Town on **Wednesday 5 October** from **10am to 3pm**. The Mobile Service Centre will be located outside the School of Arts in Grey Street.

Waiting for Purpose—Advent Reflection

As frightening as it sounds, the Season of Advent is not that far away! This year the Diocese is preparing its own Advent Reflection series for use by small groups and individuals across the Season of Advent.

Now is the time to start thinking about how we might make use of this resource here in the Parishes, and so you are invited to begin organising groups and gatherings, or making time for our personal preparation during Advent.

In coming weeks and as they become available, possible groups for you to be part of will be communicated via the Parish Bulletin.

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important.

Our Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care.

We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

gospel focus

Faith

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, but their question – and the reply given by Jesus – does not make clear the faith that they want increased. Is it their faith in God; their faith in themselves; or their faith in the people they are called to serve? The response by Jesus suggests that, in fact, it is faith in all these things. Faith in God and faith in self are intrinsically linked and Jesus makes plain to the disciples that this faith must find its expression in selfless service to others.

Bulletin by Email

For those parishioners who are currently receiving an emailed version of the Parish Bulletin every week, please note that we will transition to an automated process at the end of October.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up on the website (via the form on the right hand side) to continue receiving an email when the Bulletin becomes available.

World Youth Day—Launch Event

Are you a young person interested in travelling across the globe?

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is inviting any young person who is over 18 years old to join us on a 3-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and then Lisbon for World Youth Day.

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelisation for the youth world. This pilgrimage will take place in July/August 2023.

For now, we are taking expressions of interest until we have specific information on dates, times, and prices. We have limited space so signing up is essential. Please express your interest on the diocesan website at www.mn.catholic.org.au.

The official WYD launch will be hosted on **Sunday 9 October** at **4pm** at the Murray Room (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West). To register your attendance, please visit the [WYD page on the Diocesan website](#). If you have any questions regarding this pilgrimage, please email Ryan Gato, Diocesan World Youth Day Coordinator at: ryan.gato@mn.catholic.edu.au.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

'Walking with Wisdom Series' (in person or via Zoom), 4 x Thursdays, 6-27 October 2022, 10am-12.30pm. This series offers a time to explore the depths of wisdom in our own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another ... to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Led by spiritual directors Carole Carmody rsm and Julie Adam. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern VIC. Cost \$30 per session or \$100 for the series. Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, email office@heartoflife.melbourne, or telephone (03) 9890 1101.

Evangelise—a national conference for Catholics

The National Centre for Evangelisation is getting ready to host an online evangelisation conference from Thursday 20 to Saturday 22 October. There will be a wide range of keynote presentations from well-known Catholic speakers from around Australia, on a variety of topics related to evangelisation and formation. You can find more information about the conference at www.evangelisation.catholic.org.au. Individual registration costs \$25 or a community can purchase five registrations for \$100.

Catholic Theological College – Engaging Your Faith

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from the Catholic Theological College will present on a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies, Laudato Si', Christian Meditation, Lectio Divina, Future Technology, and Science and Religion.

The 12 sessions will be hosted via Zoom, in October 2022.

Choose what interests you for just \$25 per session. Booking, payment and further information: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

'Mindfulness & Meditation', via Zoom, Saturday 15 Oct 2022, 10am-2pm (AEST). When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart, for these few hours of prayer in the practice of mindfulness and meditation, to journey with others and within oneself. Led by Paola Cheng, a qualified meditation teacher, spiritual director and social worker, who brings an inclusive and gentle approach to her sessions. Heart of Life Centre for

Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$50. Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or telephone 03 9890 1101.

aMeN caMiNo Information Session

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

Dates for 2023: June 17-21, July 8-12 & August 5-9

An online Information Session for people interested in attending the aMeN caMiNo in 2023 will be hosted on 9 November from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. To register go to: bit.ly/3QxgCwo.

A Day on the Gospel of Matthew

As the liturgical calendar leads to Year A and the Gospel of Matthew, we are excited to have Dr Michele Connolly rsj, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies Catholic Institute of Sydney, visit the Diocese.

The day will include both presentation and discussion around the literary structure, organisation, history and intended audience of the Gospel of Matthew.

Issues for Interpretation, comparison with other Synoptic Gospels; the ancient historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds and Matthew's prominent themes will be explored.

Several pieces of scripture will be unpacked and interpreted on the day.

Date: Thursday 10 November. **Time:** 9am – 3.30pm
Where: Victor Peters Suit, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. **Cost:** \$25 (includes Morning tea and Lunch). To register, visit bit.ly/3LGYnE5.

Year 12 & The Pending Exams

With the end of Term 3, the Year 12 students across New South Wales have concluded their secondary education and are preparing to sit the dreaded HSC exams that have been the focus of that education.

The coming months—of exams, of waiting for results, etc—are tough months for everyone involved, students, parents, grandparents, and siblings.

If you have a Year 12 student in your family, or know of one among the broader community, you might like to hold them (and those around them) in prayer over the coming months.

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

27th Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—3 October
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday—4 October
St Francis of Assisi

Wednesday—5 October
No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Maitland for meeting in the evening

Thursday—6 October
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—7 October
Our Lady of the Rosary
No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Newcastle for meetings.

Saturday—8 October
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—9 October
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

Psalm Ps 94: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

2nd Reading 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 17:5-9

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

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October:

"We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality."

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

A lesson for the disciples

For the last few months, in the Sunday gospel readings, we have been working our way through the second half of the gospel of Luke. From the end of chapter 9 onwards, the gospel charts the journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem. Throughout this journey, Jesus teaches his disciples and attempts to prepare them for his departure and their need to step up and take on his ministry. Today's passage is an example of this instruction to the disciples. Jesus makes clear that they are being called to give their lives in faith in service of others without expecting any return - just as Jesus does!



In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: John Melmeth, Beryl Cooper, Paul Evans.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In October: Bert Clark, Jaimie Richardon, Bonnie Hulbert, Bruce Everding, Ned Garland, Mark Bannister, Michael Wills, Fred Dickerson, Scott Bowman, Irma Iacono, Paul Brockwell, Brian Doyle, Maria Kealy, Raymond & Phyliss MacKay, Peter James McMullen, Mary Isabelle Preece, Margaret Banister, Paul Bryon, Doris Murray, Carl Nolan (Georgetown), Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlan, Thelma Moroney.

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, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Lyn Barry, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Warren Wade, Kerry Copus, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Joanne Curry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Lyn Kerr, Michaela Brown, Marilyn Amos, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Peter Byron, Patrick Byron.