



# 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 30 OCTOBER 2022

### 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

#### Parish Staff

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

#### Presbytery & Parish Office

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

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: [dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au)

W: [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au](http://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. 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  
[vip\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:vip_1@bigpond.com)

Gresford Faith Banister  
0427 536 248

#### 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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dungog.catholic.edu.au)



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.

## November Masses

As is the custom in the Parishes of Dungog & Gresford, a Mass will be celebrated in each of our local worshipping communities to remember those parishioners who have died and are buried within the local cemeteries.

Although in the past these Masses have been celebrated in the cemeteries themselves, the run of extra rain has made that difficult. Accordingly, it has been decided to move the celebration to the church building instead.

The series of November Masses will take place on the Wednesdays of November, commencing on Wednesday 9 November.

I'd be grateful if local parishioners at each locality could let me know their preferred time of day (and a preferred date) by the time next week's bulletin is ready for publication, so that the schedule can be published in next week's edition of the bulletin.

*May the souls of the all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## Summary of Pope Francis' Weekly Catechesis

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on discernment, we now consider what the spiritual masters call "desolation", those moments when we experience interior darkness, unrest and distance from God and from the consolations of faith. For our spiritual growth, it is important to confront these dark nights of the soul and to discern what the Lord wishes to tell us through them.

At times, desolation can be a summons to acknowledge our sinfulness and to embrace God's offer of love and forgiveness. Saint Thomas says that our souls, like our bodies, can experience a kind of pain that makes us aware of threats to our spiritual health.

At other times, the experience of desolation can be a temptation to grow slack in prayer and in the discipline of the Christian life. Here too, the great spiritual teachers urge us not to yield to this temptation, but to persevere, confident that by this testing the Lord will guide us to a fuller understanding of his gracious plan for our lives and a deeper union with him in faith, hope and love.

## Vatican II Book Club

Due to a lack of interest the previously mentioned Vatican II Book Club will not be proceeding at this time.

Fr Andrew

## World Mission Sunday

Contributions to the 2022 Catholic Mission appeal to support families in Ethiopia can be made via the envelopes available at the back table of the church, by scanning the QR Code on the envelopes and back page of the bulletin with your mobile phone, or by visiting the Catholic Mission website ([catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia](http://catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia)).

If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a donation to this year's appeal via one of the envelopes, please collect it today and return via placed in either collection basket this week or next.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Tax Collectors

*Tax collectors were hated by most Jews at the time of Jesus. Firstly, the taxes they collected were going to support Rome – a foreign, Gentile power that was an unwelcome occupying force in Palestine. The Jews' taxes were paying the wages of the army that occupied their country, so tax collectors were seen as collaborators with the enemy. Secondly, the system of tax collection lent itself to abuse and corruption. Tax collectors were required to collect a certain amount from their district; any excess they collected was theirs to keep – that was their income.*

## 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.

## Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: by phoning 4979 1390 or emailing [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

## Opportunities Outside The Parish

### Interfaith Dialogue

The Interfaith Dialogue will explore leadership within different faith communities. Join us as we explore what is the same or different – and what we can learn from each other. This is an opportunity to join the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council and other faith communities.

The event is being hosted at the Mackillop Pastoral Centre (7 Milson Street, Charlestown) from 6.30pm to 9pm on Thursday 3 November. A light supper will be served. For catering purposes, please register online by 31 October at [bit.ly/3ywjfZ1](http://bit.ly/3ywjfZ1).

### 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](http://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](http://bit.ly/3LGYnE5).

### Catholic Women's League Australia: Annual Thanksgiving Mass

The Catholic Women's League Australia – New South Wales Inc. Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to invite you to their Annual Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon on Friday 18


November. Mass is at St Paul's Church, Rutherford at 11.30am and lunch will be at the Telarah Bowling Club at 1pm. Cost for lunch is \$40 per person. For more information contact Margo Nancarrow by phone to 0418 657 989 or email to [bjmnan4@bigpond.com](mailto:bjmnan4@bigpond.com).

### Waiting for Purpose—Advent Reflection

Waiting with Purpose is a resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams – to reflect mystagogically on the Advent gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical Reflection deepens our capacity to live from Christ.

To access the resource, go to [bit.ly/3TvOg7s](http://bit.ly/3TvOg7s).

For those wanting to connect via Zoom during Advent we will be hosting Waiting with Purpose Advent Reflection each Monday at 10am. To register go to [bit.ly/3yQ0K1Q](http://bit.ly/3yQ0K1Q).



**Have you thought?  
Conversion**

*When we hear this story about Zacchaeus, our focus is normally on the conversion of heart that appears to take place within Zacchaeus. However, his determination to see Jesus from the outset suggests that the conversion has already taken place within Zacchaeus. It is the muttering, grumbling crowd who are called to conversion; called to soften their hearts and see a faithful man where they have previously only seen a sinner. Throughout the gospel, the welcome and acceptance Jesus extends to the 'outsider' and the 'sinner' confronts and challenges those who would hold themselves up as being better than these others.*

### Higher School Certificate 2022

This year's HSC exams started during the week and will continue until Friday 4 November. We remember in prayer those students who are sitting for these exams, and their families who are supporting them at the moment.

### Bishop's Award 2022

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Bishop's Award! The award aims to recognise the good works of students and young people across our Diocese who were actively involved in their parish communities. Applications close on 2 December 2022. For more information visit [bit.ly/3MCWdWi](http://bit.ly/3MCWdWi).

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

31st Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—31 October

Tuesday—1 November

Solemnity of All Saints

Wednesday—2 November

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—3 November

9.30am Mass @ Gresford

Friday—4 November

Memorial of St Charles Borromeo

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday—5 November

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—6 November

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Wisdom 11:22—12:2

**Psalm** Ps 144: "I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God."

**2nd Reading** 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

**Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 19:1-10

**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."*

## BRING HOPE TO NEELA AND HER FAMILY

Thank you so much for your generous partnership with life-changing mission programs like the establishment of the Deberety Goat Rearing Centre in Emdibir, Ethiopia.

Your gift is helping the Church and the local community work towards constructing the Centre, supplying feed and veterinary medication, and procuring goats to provide nutritious milk to help address problems like malnutrition in babies and children. Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://catholicmission.org.au/our-work), where you can also sign up for our regular newsletter. If you missed your opportunity to learn about this vital mission program, or wish to contribute again, please go to [catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia](http://catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia) or scan the QR code below today.



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia](http://catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia)



## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

### Those Who Have Died:

**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, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Joanne Curry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Peter Byron, Colleen Primrose.