



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 6 NOVEMBER 2022

32ND 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

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

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A Pastoral Note...

During the past week, the Diocesan Liturgy Council has released new advice about COVID related restrictions that until now have been in place.

In short, many of the restrictions we have been living under since March 2019 have now been lifted, with the 'when' and 'how' of returning to many liturgical practices being left to local communities to decide.

While many of the eased restrictions haven't had an immediate impact on our liturgical and parish life, there are two specific changes that I would like to speak about in this week's bulletin.

Return of Holy Water

The newly restored freedoms means that we can once again have Holy Water available in the door stoups of our church buildings. Many people have missed this wonderful devotional practice of blessing themselves as they enter our buildings in memory of their baptism, and it will be wonderful to return to this practice.

I will bless new Holy Water at each of the Parish Masses this weekend, and it can then be used from the end of that Mass.

We should continue to take care when using the Holy Water at the doors of our church buildings—if you are unwell, please refrain from using it out of an abundant care for your fellow parishioners.

It would infinitely preferable for the Holy Water at the doors to be changed each week, so that we can ensure minimal cross contamination. If there

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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.

was someone at each church building who would like to take some responsibility for changing the Holy Water regularly, I would be most grateful.

Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the doors of our church buildings and parishioners who wish to make use of this should feel free to do so. It should go without saying that in the continuing circumstances there is absolutely no obligation to use the new Holy Water; the choice will remain with each individual.

Communion from the Chalice

The easing of COVID related restrictions will also see the possibility of once again receiving Communion from the Chalice.

Unlike the use of Holy Water, the return to this wonderful practice may be more hesitant for reasons I'm sure we all understand and appreciate.

For that reason, I don't see a need to rush back to this practice, as laudable as it is, until parishioners have had a chance to give it some thoughtful prayer and reflection. Accordingly, we won't be seeing a return to the availability of Communion from the Chalice for at least a couple of weeks, once you have reflected and let me know how each local community is situated.

Like the use of Holy Water, no one is ever obligated to receive Communion from the Chalice, either during the continuing presence of COVID or ever. The choice is always with the individual.

It may be that the consensus is not to have the Chalice available at all just yet; it may be that only a small number of parishioners would like the possibility of receiving from the Chalice; it may be that yes, we should return to a fuller availability of the Chalice. Any or all of these positions are possible in the present circumstances, and I will be guided by what you tell me.

The overarching concern about the return of Communion from the Chalice—and the return of Holy Water for that matter—is ensuring that those who wish to avail themselves of these liturgical and devotional practices are able to do so safely and without presenting an unacceptable to others who either do not wish to or are hesitant at this particular point in time.

The ability of live with those tensions are part of what makes us who we are. Together, and respecting each other's particular circumstances, we will continue to be the People of God we are called to be in this part of the world.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Andrew

St Joseph's School Joining Us For Mass

We welcome students, parents and teachers from St Joseph's Primary School who are joining us for the 9.30am Mass this weekend. Thank you for your presence with us and making today's celebration a joyous one.

There will be the opportunity for all present to join us for some refreshments after Mass in the Parish Hall and, weather permitting, in the School grounds.

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.

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.

SRE Teachers for Gresford & Vacy

Gresford parishioners currently attend Gresford and Vacy Primary Schools to offer Special Religious Education using the Sydney Diocesan program "Christ is Our Light and Life".

A additional teacher for either or both of these two schools—and especially for Vacy Primary School—would be very welcome.

Training and support are offered for any one interested in taking up this role.

Please contact the Parish Office in the first instance.

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Parishes of Dungog & Gresford hold that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.

In line with the Safeguarding Policy of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, our parishes have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding all who interact with the parishes through our activities, ministries and services, especially children and adults at risk.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

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.

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.

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.

Dungog Christmas Luncheon

The 2022 Christmas Luncheon will take place on **Sunday 27 November** commencing at 12pm. The cost is \$15 per head.

Please place your name on the sheet at the back of the Dungog church, or phone Pam Edwards on 0417 417 099.

Baptisms This Weekend

We welcome **Olivia Hughes-Ridgeway**, together with her family, as we celebrate her Baptism after the 9.30am Mass at Dungog this weekend.

GOSPEL FOCUS

I am who am

The Sadducees quote the Law of Moses at Jesus but he goes one better by quoting the very conversation when Moses encountered God in the burning bush. In this encounter, God reveals Godself to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God does not say, I was the God of Abraham, but rather I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This distinction confirms that the relationship is ongoing, not stuck in a time before their death. It is in this same encounter that God reveals God's name as "I am who am" – represented in Hebrew by the letters YHWH from which we get Yahweh.

Roll Up Your Sleeves; Make A Difference Overseas

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more.

Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home.

Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles.

Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November:

"We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection."

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.

Wed 9 November	Dungog	5.30pm
Sun 13 November	Summer Hill	11:30am
Wed 23 November	Clarence Town	5.30pm
Wed 30 November	East Gresford	5.30pm

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.

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

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

The Law of Moses

The first five books of what we know as the Bible make up what Jews regard as the Torah (the Law). Right up until the second half of the 19th Century, it was accepted that Moses was the author of these five books. Literary criticism reveals a variety of authors and editors and the books are now thought to have been written at the time of the Jewish exile in Babylon. Despite this, Moses holds a special place in Judaism as the 'Law-giver' because of his part in the Ten Commandments and he tends to be associated with the whole of the books of Law – the Torah.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading	2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalm	Ps 16: "Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full."
2nd Reading	2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5
Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Alleluia!
Gospel	Luke 20:27-38
Memorial Acclamation	When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

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

32nd Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—7 November

Tuesday—8 November

Wednesday—9 November

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—10 November

Memorial of St Leo the Great

No Mass today—Fr Andrew in interviews for School staff at Dungog

Friday—11 November

Memorial of St Martin of Tours
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—12 November

Memorial of St Josaphat

Sunday—13 November

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

11:30am Mass @ Summer Hill

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In November: Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, Bishop Bill Wright.

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.