



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 13 NOVEMBER 2022

33RD 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

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. 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

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

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

A Pastoral Note...

This Sunday marks the first anniversary of the death of Bishop Bill Wright. It is perhaps strange during the month of November to remember one specific anniversary, but if you will indulge me I think it is important to do so.

I had the very great privilege of working closely with Bishop Bill, almost from the very beginning of his time with us in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. I was the Master of Ceremonies at his ordination, a night I remember well, and had many conversations with him in the lead up to that significant occasion.

I subsequently was elected to his Council of Priests, and appointed by him to the College of Consultors. While this involved a meeting of some length once a month, it was always interesting to listen to what was going on inside his thinking, to see the thoughts progress and process across time.

Bishop Bill asked me to take up the role of Dean of the Cathedral, a move which brought me into a more regular contact with him, usually when he was presiding at liturgies and other events in the Cathedral. There were often interesting conversations to be had while we were waiting for things to start, or in the immediate aftermath of them finishing. And it wasn't always about 'work' either; it was in these conversations that I truly discovered his wicked yet understated sense of humour.

Fast forward a few years, and Bishop Bill has asked me to be his Vicar General after the

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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.

appointment of Brian Mascord as Bishop of Wollongong. It wasn't meant to be an onerous role when I was first appointed, but then Bill's health started to decline, firstly with heart issues and then other things.

Those almost four years as his Vicar General saw me in very close contact with Bishop Bill. I saw the profound faith with which he approached his health issues, I saw the serenity that engulfed him when he realized that death was the 'only cure' for what ailed him. And I saw the continuing care for the diocese to whom and for whom he was Bishop.

Now don't get me wrong. There was many a time when Bishop Bill frustrated the living daylight out of me—usually when he was less inclined to rush into making a decision about some issue or other. But Bill Wright was a good man, a good priest, and a good bishop. I was privileged to have worked closely with him, and to have enjoyed his company in more relaxed settings as well as the more formal occasions.

My hope and prayer is that Bill Wright now enjoys the fulfilment of the promise made to all who have been baptized into Christ's Death and Resurrection.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Andrew



Prayer for the Appointment of our New Bishop

Shepherding God
you reveal your way of unfailing love
in the image of the Good Shepherd
who seeks the lost,
shows compassion
knows and is known by the sheep
and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle
are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit
who moves through this great south land
inspire the choice of our new Bishop,
empower his 'yes'
and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.
Mary MacKillop of the Cross, pray for us.

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.

St Joseph's School Joining Us For Mass

On Friday 18 November, students from Years 3/4 and 4/5 will be joining the Parish community for the morning 9.30am Mass.

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 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.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

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.

Become An SRE Volunteer

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator?

This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.



Bulletin by Email

The Parish Office is no longer emailing the weekly bulletin to parishioners via email. This practice has been replaced by the automated mailing list attached to the parishes' website.

If you would like to receive a email notification when the bulletin is posted to the website, please sign up using the form on the right hand side of the front page.

Baptisms This Weekend

We welcome **Leo Butler, Klancy Butler, and Miles Bashford**, together with their families and friends, as we celebrate their Baptism during the 9.30am Mass at Dungog this weekend.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

33rd Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—14 November

Tuesday—15 November

Wednesday—16 November

No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Newcastle for meetings.

Thursday—17 November

Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary
9.40am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—18 November

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—19 November

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—20 November

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Malachi 3:19-20

Psalm Ps 97: "The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice."

2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 21:5_19

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

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."

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Comfort

We must remember that the gospel of Luke was written 50-plus years after the death of Jesus. Whilst Jesus may have said something like what is ascribed to him in this passage, we have to accept that the words are influenced to a great extent by the gospel writer. The gospel is not written as a biography but as a means of conveying a message about Jesus. To this end, the writer seeks to give comfort to his audience by having Jesus 'predict' all the things that have indeed come to pass in their community. The message to a struggling community is to 'keep going.'

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Apocalyptic writing

Hollywood has done very well out of movies about the end of the world and the term 'apocalypse' has come to have this meaning. However, 'apocalypse' comes from the Greek word meaning, 'to lift a veil' or 'to reveal'. The apocalypse is not the end of the world, but rather the revelation that will come at the end of the world. Writings such as today's gospel passage about what will happen at the end of the world and how God will be revealed are described in the Christian tradition as 'apocalyptic writing'. The most famous of these writings is the book of Revelation.

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, Bert Preece.