



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 20 NOVEMBER 2022

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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A Pastoral Note...

This weekend marks the last Sunday of our current liturgical year. Next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we move to Year A in our Sunday Lectionary cycle—also known as the Year of Matthew—and Year 1 of the weekday Lectionary cycle.

While that information might be of importance to only a few people, the shift of cycle at the beginning of each Liturgical Year, is one of the great gifts we have received from Vatican II's reforms of the liturgy. For the last 60 years, Catholics have been exposed to a much richer selection of Sacred Scripture, a gift that allows for a richer interaction with God's Revelation to God's people.

The proclamation of Scripture during our liturgical celebrations, including and perhaps especially during the Mass, is not just an 'added extra', something that precedes the 'important bit'. The proclamation of Scripture to the liturgical assembly is one of the marks of the presence of God to God's people.

Indeed, the proclamation of Scripture during the liturgy is so important that the *General Instruction of the Romans Missal* says this:

"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel." (n. 29)

Such an understanding of the significance of the proclamation of Scripture places a significant

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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.

level of responsibility on those who undertake this ministry on behalf of us all. We owe these Ministers of the Word our thanks for allowing us to hear God speak to us through God's Word.

As we prepare to begin a new cycle of Scripture readings, I invite you to join me in praying for those who proclaim those Scriptures during our liturgies as well as for the Holy Spirit to open our ears to hear what God wishes to communicate to us.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Andrew

Blessing of Advent Wreaths

With the Season of Advent beginning next Sunday, there is the annual opportunity for the blessing of Advent Wreaths that you might be looking to use in your home.

If you would like your Advent Wreath blessed on the First Sunday of Advent, please bring it along with you to Mass next weekend. The Blessing will be celebrated at each of our Sunday Masses.



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.

There will be the opportunity for parishioners to gather each **Tuesday** evening of Advent (starting 29 November) at **7pm**. All are welcome.

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.

Baptisms This Weekend

We welcome **Hunter Stedman** and **Marli Single**, together with their families and friends, as we celebrate their Baptism at St Helen's this Sunday.

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.

Dungog Christmas Hamper Raffle

A basket has been placed at the rear of the Dungog & Clarence Town churches where donations towards this year's Christmas Hamper can be placed. Your generosity in contributing to the hamper is gratefully received.

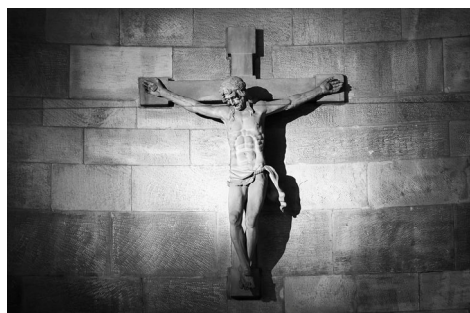
Tickets to be sold will be distributed after Mass.

Reconciliation During Advent

As part of our Advent preparations, the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) will be available as follows:

1st Rite of Reconciliation will be available each Saturday of Advent at St Mary's, Dungog between 10am and 11am.

A 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Thursday 22 December** at St Mary's, Dungog commencing at 6pm. At this point I do not believe that there will be a need to invite other priests to join us for this celebration.



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.

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Opportunities Outside The Parish

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.

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.

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.

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 23 November Clarence Town 5.30pm

Wed 30 November East Gresford 5.30pm

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

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Shepherds and Criminals

The gospel of Luke is underlined by a message of hope for those who are afflicted, outcast and poor. In this gospel, the message and ministry of Jesus are directed specifically to these lowly ones. The significance of the role played by the poor is highlighted by the framing of the whole narrative in this gospel: the birth of Jesus is celebrated by shepherds and his death is accompanied by criminals. Shepherds and criminals – two classes of people on the absolute fringe of society; not dignitaries or wise men from afar – are witness to the birth and death of Jesus.

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.

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.

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

34th Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—21 November

Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin

Tuesday—22 November

Memorial of St Cecilia

Wednesday—23 November

5.30pm Mass @ Clarence Town

Thursday—24 November

Memorial of St Andrew Dūng-Lac & companions

No Mass today—Fr Andrew in Newcastle for meetings

Friday—25 November

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—26 November

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—27 November

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

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.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalm Ps 121: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

2nd Reading Colossians 1:12-20

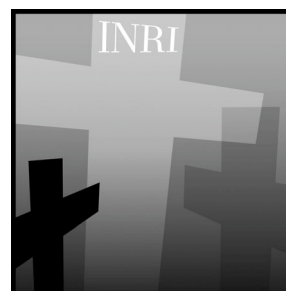
Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

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

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."



Job Opportunity: Casual Receptionist

The Sisters of Mercy at Tighes Hill are looking for a Relief Casual Receptionist/Secretary for a short assignment from 8 December 2022 to 6 January 2023. The days will be each Thursday and Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Previous experience and an understanding of Catholic organisation is preferred. If you are interested in this assignment, please call Sister Margaret on 4964 6400.

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.