



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 22 JANUARY 2023

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
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

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671.

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. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website and are updated weekly.

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



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.

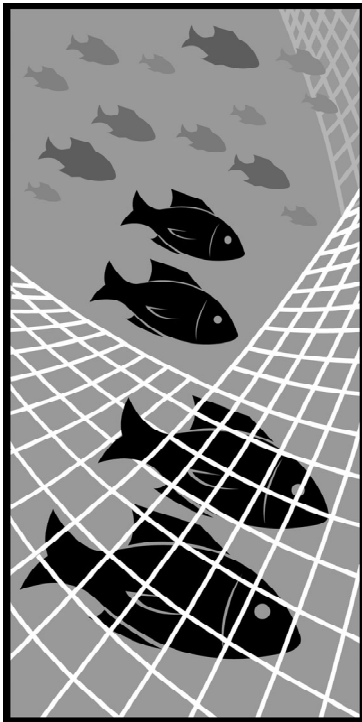
Fosterton Retreat Open Day 2023

Fosterton Retreat will be celebrating seven years of opening with an Open Day on Saturday 18 February, between 10am and 3pm.

"Come & see what we get so excited about—wildlife—serenity—the views—getting away—the river—our plans—the pool—special deals."

RSVP via email (fostertonretreat@outlook.com) or phone (0439 500 909 or 0490 663 228)

Fosterton Retreat is located on Moylans Road, Fosterton, and more information can be found at www.fostertonretreat.com.au.



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.

2023 Columban Art Calendar

Lyn Barham has ordered some copies of the 2023 Columban Art Calendar. If you would like to purchase a copy (\$10), please contact Lyn.

Sign Up for Lenten Groups

As mentioned on the opposite page, it is time to start organising our Lenten groups for Lent 2023.

'Sign up' sheets are available in the churches from this weekend—please add your name to one of the lists if you would like to be, or already are, part of a Lenten group this year.

If people have self-organised their own groups, it would be good for a contact person from that group to let the Parish Office know so resources can be forwarded via that person.

If parishioners are interested in coordinating or hosting a group, again please let the Parish Office know.

If individual parishioners are not yet part of a group, but would like to be, please tick the appropriate column, and the Parish Office will do its best to assist you.

Sacrament of Penance

Commencing at the beginning of February 2023, the Sacrament of Penance will be available twice each month in St Mary's Church, Dungog:

- First Saturday of each month at **10am**, and
- Third Friday of each month after the 9.30am Mass.

Each session will last for up to one hour, by which I mean that it will conclude when there is no one else waiting. Those who might wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance are encouraged to gather towards the beginning of the scheduled time.

Additionally, the Sacrament of Penance will remain available at any time 'by appointment' either at the Presbytery or in your home by contacting me.

Fr Andrew

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in Dungog Parish

Beginning the weekend of Saturday 4 February and Sunday 5 February, the Universal Prayer will be led from the ambo, in keeping with the significance of that 'table' from which we are nourished.

If anyone would like to talk through these changes, I'd be more than happy to do so—especially over coffee!

Fr Andrew

Diocesan Lenten Program Is Coming

Although it seems a little 'odd' to be speaking of Lent even before we begin celebrating Christmas, the following information may be of interest to parishioners as they look forward to 2023:

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, Finding Light within the Darkness. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community.

This resource will be available at the end of January.

NB: If the Diocesan program is not considered appropriate once it is released, our parishes will opt for the program offered by the Diocese of Wollongong, generally considered a very good and accessible program for parish communities.

You are invited to start considering if a Lenten group is something you would like to be interested in for Lent 2023 (which commences on Wednesday 22 February).

Sign up sheets will be made available in coming weeks so resources can be purchased for those interested in participating.

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.

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.

from the perspective

the first called

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed.

Palms Volunteer from Dungog Parish

Dungog parishioner John Bradley has answered the call to mission and is departing to take up a placement at Don Bosco High School and Vocational Training Centre in Saloleloga, Samoa as a Science & Maths Teacher. John is an experienced Science teacher in Catholic high schools and previously volunteered with Palms in Kiribati from 2001 to 2003.

John has let us know that he has arrived safely in Samoa, and is adjusting to the heat!

Members of Dungog Parish are invited to support John in his placement by making his mission a prayer intention. Parishioners can also support John's placement financially, either with regular support or a one-off donation, by visiting <https://palms.org.au/project/physics-science-teacher-mentor-in-savaii-samoa/>

If you would like to explore possibilities offered with Palms visit www.palms.org.au or phone 02 9560 5333.

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

3rd Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—23 January

11.30am Funeral for Marea Cox @ Dungog

Tuesday—24 January

Memorial of St Francis de Sales

Wednesday—25 January

Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

No Mass Fr Andrew attending school governance training in Newcastle

Thursday—26 January

Australia Day

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—27 January

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—28 January

Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—29 January

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 8:23—9:3

Psalm Ps 26:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,

and profess your Resurrection

until you come again.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January:

"We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Marea Cox.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In January:

Bob Copus, Josie Gibson, Bill Taylor, Donald & Hope Lord, Kevin Byron, Noreen Lucas, Joan Riches, Michael Curry, Mary Neilson, Michael Bede Holstein, Maureen Reynold, Len Trappel, Patrick Dooley, Rufie Bunt, Eileen Moore, Andrew Whelan, Merv Clayden, Norah Studdert, Jack Gehrig, George Maurer, Eileen Lane, John Smith, Fr Allan Curry, Reginald Peter Wilson, Joseph Watson, Aveen Watson, Edith Thomas, Pauline Thomas, Fr Martin Jackubas (England), Michael Denko.

*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, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Peter Byron, Colleen Primrose, Bert Preece.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Repent

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel repeated a cycle of behaviour. When their relationship with God was strong, they upheld the covenant and they prospered. They would forget that their prosperity lay in being in right relationship with one another and with God and so they would neglect those relationships. They would turn so far away that some tragedy or oppression would befall them. Out of their despair they would recognise their need for God and they would 'repent' and re-establish their relationship with God. Jesus' call to repent is a call to looking at the relationship with God in a whole new way.

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