



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 5 FEBRUARY 2023

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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*)

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Pope Francis Has Appointed Our New Bishop Welcome Bishop Michael!

On Thursday, 2 February, at midday (Rome time) it was announced that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Michael Kennedy, the Bishop of Armidale, as the 9th Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle.

Bishop Michael hails from Wagga Wagga, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in August 1999. Prior to ordination, Bishop Michael worked as a teacher within the Catholic Schools of Wagga Wagga.

Bishop Michael was announced as the 10th Bishop of Armidale in December 2011, and was ordained in the Armidale Cathedral in February 2012.

Bishop Michael currently serves the broader Australian Church as a member of the Bishops' Commission for Social Justice, Mission & Service, and as the Bishop delegate to the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations. Within the Province of NSW, he is the Chair of the Studies in Catholic Thought Reference Group.

We congratulate Bishop Michael on his appointment, and look forward to welcoming him as our Bishop in the coming months.

Details around the Installation of Bishop Michael will be available once they are finalised.

A copy of the formal announcement can be found at found on our website—you can visit bit.ly/3DzzSWs.

Fr Andrew

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.

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in Dungog Parish—STARTS THIS WEEKEND!

This weekend sees the Universal Prayer being led from the ambo, in keeping with the significance of that 'table' from which we are nourished.

St Joseph's School Joining Us For Mass

On Thursday, 9 February, Mass will be celebrated to mark the beginning of the 2023 School Year at St Mary's, Dungog, commencing at 9.30am.

Parishioners are warmly welcomed to join with the students and staff of St Joseph's for this important occasion.

Word of God Sunday

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 5 in 2023 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A).

Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.

Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

SRE Teachers

As part of our Word of God Sunday celebrations, we will be commissioning and blessing our SRE teachers this weekend.

SRE teachers reach out to the 50% of Catholic children who attend state schools, a vital role in making sure Jesus is known far and wide. The need for SRE teachers is always present—have you ever thought about it?

Update from John Bradley

John Bradley has been in touch with an update of his mission to Samoa. A letter and some photos are available on the back wall of St Mary's Church—take a moment to stay informed with his latest news.

Please don't forget to keep John and his mission in your prayers—and the possibility of supporting John's placement by going to bit.ly/3RnsIpb. The Parish is able to forward contributions on your behalf you prefer; contact the Parish Office for more information.

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

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

There will be a morning tea after the 8am Mass at Clarence today, 5 February. Please stay to enjoy the company.

Sign Up for Lenten Groups 2023

A decision has been made to proceed with using the Wollongong Diocesan Lenten program for our own Lenten Groups this year.

To assist in arranging resources, and assisting parishioners find groups, 'Sign up' sheets are available in each of our churches—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.

Updating the Dungog Liturgical Rosters

The liturgical ministry roster (readers, procession of gifts, communion ministers, etc.) currently being followed at St Mary's, Dungog, is about to be updated.

If you are currently on the roster, please let us know if you are happy to continue or you would like to be removed from the next version. If you are not currently on the liturgical ministry roster but would like to be, this is your opportunity to let us know.

Please speak with Lyn Barham or contact the Parish Office.

Availability of Sacrament of Penance

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.

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

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

Here are two extraordinary descriptions of you as a community: 'You' is in the plural. 'You are the salt of the earth.' 'You are the light of the cosmos.'

Our Lord describes who we are, who we are by virtue of our being graced to be his disciples, trying to live out the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount.

'Salt of the Earth'

Salt in the ancient world was used not just for flavouring but, most importantly, as a preservative for food, preventing deterioration or decay, keeping it life-giving.

So, when Jesus says: 'You are the salt of the earth', he is saying: 'You are the ones who are to preserve the earth, to prevent its deterioration or decay, to keep it life-giving, to ensure it provides a place of habitation, hospitable to billions of living beings, including human beings.'

This is the basis for a Christian charter for ecological sensitivity of the highest order. Gross pollution in a crime against the earth and a sin against the Creator of the earth.

That is fairly obvious. But we can reflect a little more. In a hundred different ways, not just ecological, every time we do something which makes the earth more habitable, more life-giving, we retain our tang – we are the salt of the earth. But Our Lord warns us that we can lose our saltiness, we can lose our tang, we can become useless. How do we do what salt should do?

Salt has to penetrate food to have an effect. We have to penetrate the world with our Sermon on the Mount values. Staying self-contained as a perfect little band of Christians is about as useful as salt remaining in the saltshaker. In Our Lord's scary opinion we would quite rightly be trampled underfoot.

We retain our saltiness by becoming the greatest humanitarians the world has ever seen.

'Light of the Cosmos'

The cosmos is the whole of the created reality ranging from the smallest fraction of your body to the swirling gases of the farthest constellation of stars.

You, we, as a Christian community trying to live according to the Gospel are 'the light' of this cosmos. The only question is the degree of the brilliance of our light. What radiance do we bring to the cosmos?

How do we do this?

Our Lord says, 'Your light must shine in the sight of human beings so that, seeing your good works,

they may give the praise to your father in Heaven.'

'Good works.' That sounds narrowly moralistic. Isn't there a slightly pejorative tone to the expression 'he is a do gooder'? You won't be surprised to learn it is not what Our Lord meant.

The words Jesus uses for good works are 'kala erga'. In Greek, the language of the Gospels, these words mean 'beautiful works'. These are those things we do which have grace, elegance and proportion and are therefore pleasing to observe: beautifully-good-works.

Acting in a grotesque, ugly way dims our light, darkens our humanity. When we act in a truly light-hearted way, we are more fully human and our humanity has a radiant effect on others.

On others – certainly other human beings, but Our Lord remarkably says: on the whole cosmos.

St Paul says in Romans that the whole cosmos is yearning to be transfigured into the same divine glory which we share, participating in the life of the Risen Lord, the cosmic Christ.

When we do beautifully good works there is a transforming impact on the whole of creation! There is a moral ecology to the universe!

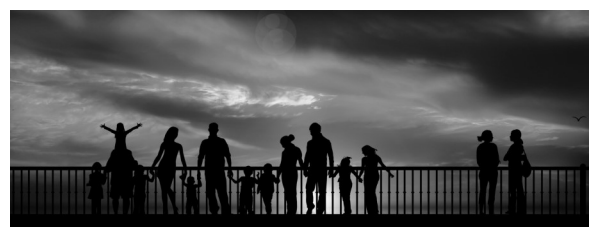
Of course, the real cause of the transformation of the cosmos into divine glory is the rising of the Son on the third day. But, we can refract some of that resurrection light through the prism of our own personalities. In fact, the cosmos is yearning for that.

So, stay salty and tangy. Do good beautifully and elegantly. The earth will become more habitable. The cosmos will become more translucent with Divine Glory.

'You are the Salt of the Earth. You are the Light of the Cosmos.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.



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

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—6 February

Memorial of St Paul Miki and companions

Tuesday—7 February

Wednesday—8 February

No Mass Fr Andrew attending meetings in Newcastle.

Thursday—9 February

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (to mark the beginning of the School year with the students and staff of St Joseph's School)

Friday—10 February

Memorial of St Scholastica

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—11 February

Sunday—12 February

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm Ps 111:

A light shines in the darkness for the upright.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Acclamation John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

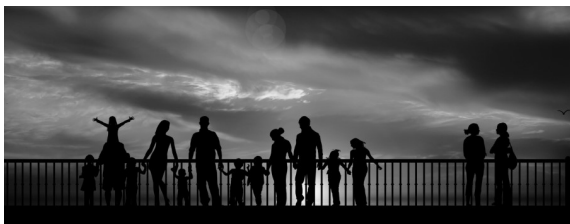
Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February:

"We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need."



In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In January:

Michael Banister, Barney Hartnett, Edie Raymond, Jeffery Bunt, Eileen Maurer, Alban Maurer, Florence Farah, Lorraine Harris, Allan Turner, Patricia Byron, Katherine Garrison, Neville Baldwin, Georgeina Richardson. John Holstein, Edward Holstein, Frank Turner, Harrison Meyn Jack Reibel, Ethel Hannan, May Gehrig, Matilda Smith, Hyatt Rose, Kathleen Dickerson, Bernie Holstein.

*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.



Have you thought?

Affirmation or Challenge

The salt and light of the world passage is often used to affirm and encourage, but when Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to be salt and light of the world it is not so that they can draw attention and glory to themselves. The whole purpose of being salt and light is to lead others into right relationship with one another and with God. Whilst the translation we have clearly states that disciples are to be salt and light of the world, it is just as clear that the intention is that they/we be salt and light for the world.

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.