



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 12 FEBRUARY 2023

6TH 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

A Pastoral Note...

As I sit down to write this particular note, it's Saturday morning. Usually, this note has been written and the bulletin printed by now, but this week has been a whirlwind and I simply ran out of time.

It's always easy to get caught up in the busy-ness of life, as I have this past week, and lose sight of those things that truly matter. It is, as a wise friend once told me, the cost of living in our current society.

I don't know about you, but when I find myself distracted by all the things that I am supposed to be doing, one of the first consequence is to set aside simply being. Simply being, for me at least, includes spending time in prayer, in silence, and allowing God to be present to me.

It usually doesn't end well for me. I find myself ill at ease, discombobulated even, and unable to focus on things. Something is missing, something that has become vitally important to who I wish to be.

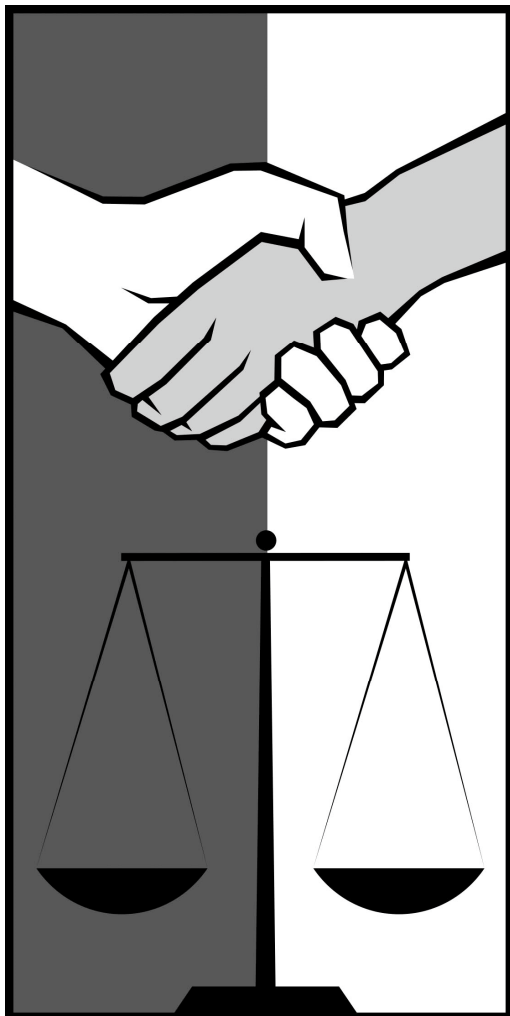
And so, once again (yes, it's happened before!), I find myself needing to 'start over', and begin to prioritize simply being rather than too much focus on doing.

The things that need to be done will get done, but without the disconnection that has evident in this past week.

Have a blessed week.

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.



Morning Tea at Dungog

There will be a morning tea after the 9.30am Mass at Dungog next Sunday, 19 February. Please bring a plate to share, and stay to enjoy the company.

Sign Up for Lenten Groups 2023

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.

Tuesday Nights of Lent in Dungog

In Lent 2023, Mark Wilson has once again offered to coordinate a Tuesday night program of reflection and prayer.

Each week will begin at 7pm with the Lenten reflection using the Diocese of Wollongong's 2023 Lenten Program (*Triumph*) and will be followed by the Stations of the Cross for those who wish to remain.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this Lenten exercise. Copies of the Lenten Program booklets will be provided to participants.

If you would like further information, please speak with Mark after Mass.

World Day of Prayer

Please join us for the World Day of Prayer service to be held at St Helen's, East Gresford on Thursday 2 March commencing at 10.30am.

The focus this year is Taiwan, with the theme "I have heard about your faith".

After the service, we will gather at *The Twin Rivers Café* for lunch.



Ash Wednesday—22 February

The Season of Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on 22 February. Mass will be celebrated as follows:

8am	Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am	Mass @ Dungog (with St Joseph's attending)
5.30pm	Mass @ East Gresford

Availability of Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated regularly. More details can be found on the Parish website under the 'Mass Times' tab at the top.

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.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

Project Compassion Launch

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will launch Caritas Australia's Project Compassion on Shrove Tuesday, 21 February 2023. The theme *For All Future Generations* reminds us that what we do today can have a significant impact on our future generations. As part of the Liturgy, students, parishes and agencies within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese will be called forward to receive their 2023 Project Compassion Box and Commissioning from Diocesan Administrator, Fr Greg Barker.

Complimentary pancakes will be served at the Southern Cross Hall, following the Liturgy. To register, visit: <https://PC2023.eventbrite.com.au>. For more information, please contact Kate on 4979 1329 or kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

But I now say to you...

There is a distinct pattern to the teaching examples Jesus provides: 'You have heard it said ...'; 'but I now say to you...'. This was a common method of teaching in Jesus' day and is often used as an example to suggest that Jesus was regarded as a Rabbi in his day. It is a typical rabbinical method of interpreting scripture. The rabbi quotes the teaching (you have heard it said...) and then offers an interpretation or reinterpretation of that teaching (but I now say to you). While it is an unfamiliar teaching style for us today, it would have been common in Jesus' time.

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.

Middle East Emergency Appeal

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

Expressions of Interest—Christian Formation Course 2023/24

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
- All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol.

To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/.

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

6th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—13 February

Tuesday—14 February

Memorial of Sts Cyril and Methodius

Wednesday—15 February

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—16 February

No Mass Fr Andrew attending meeting of the College of Consultors in Newcastle.

Friday—17 February

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Saturday—18 February

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—19 February

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm Ps 118:

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Acclamation cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

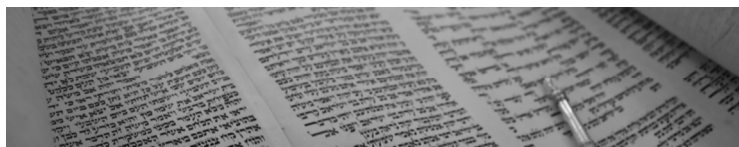
Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

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, Naida McCarthy.

Palms Encounter Trip

Ever been curious about what Palms does out in the field? Would you like to catch up with John Bradley in Samoa?

Palms is organising an encounter trip to Samoa and American Samoa from 10 to 22 April 2023, which will include a visit to the school where John is working while a Palms participant.

The Palms encounter trips are ethically run small group tours that provide curious travellers with authentic, hard to come by travel experiences.

If you would like further information about this encounter trip, you can visit [Samoa & American Samoa \(10th – 22nd April 2023\)](#). Alternatively, Fr Andrew has electronic copies of the Information Pack that can be forwarded by email or printed for interested parishioners.

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