

Sacraments of Initiation for Children

The finishing touches are being applied to the first online module for parents and children interested in completing their Christian Initiation within the Parishes of Dungog & Gresford.

The first module—'Preparing for First Reconciliation'—will soon be ready for enrolment, while the remaining two—'The Sacrament of Confirmation' and 'Preparing for First Communion'—are not that far away.

More information can be found on the website under the CELEBRATIONS tab on the top menu. Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

Service NSW Mobile Service Centre

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre (MSC) will be returning to Clarence Town on Wednesday 1 March, between 10am and 3pm.

The MSC is able to assist residents with a range of government services. See the flyer at the back of the church for more information.

The MSC will be found outside the School of Arts in Grey Street.

Sign Up for Lenten Groups 2023 LAST CHANCE THIS WEEKEND!

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.

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 School attending)
5.30pm	Mass @ East Gresford

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.

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.

Musical Update for Dungog

With the coming of Lent, we're going to start two things musically at Dungog:

- In addition to the other parts of the Mass that we are currently singing, we're going to start singing the 'Lamb of God'.
- During Lent, there will be no Recessional Hymn. Instead, we will be encouraged to depart in silence to highlight the penitential nature of Lent. We will return to singing a Recessional Hymn from the beginning of Easter.

New Liturgical Rosters for Dungog

The new (draft) Liturgy Roster for Dungog is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

Please have a look to check your rostered weekend, and also note the highlighted gaps (for which volunteers would be welcome).

The new roster will take effect from the first weekend in March, i.e. the weekend of Sunday 5 March.

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.

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.

Rite of Election – 26 February 2023

The Rite of Election on Sunday 26 February 2023 is an opportunity to welcome all the catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. You are invited to join the People of God in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic from 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. Please RSVP for catering to E sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.

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.

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)

7th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—20 February

Tuesday—21 February

Wednesday—22 February

Ash Wednesday (The Season of Lent begins)

8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog (joined by students from St Joseph's)
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Thursday—23 February

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—24 February

Friday after Ash Wednesday

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—25 February

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—26 February

First Sunday of Lent

8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm Ps 102:
The Lord is kind and merciful.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Acclamation 1 John 2:5
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

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

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."

Morning Tea at Dungog

There will be a morning tea after the 9.30am Mass at Dungog today. Please stay to enjoy the company.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In February:

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus' time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you're wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Parishes of Dungog & Gresford hold that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.

In line with the Safeguarding Policy of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, our parishes have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding all who interact with the parishes through our activities, ministries and services, especially children and adults at risk.