



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 26 FEBRUARY 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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
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A Pastoral Note...

In the days leading up to the beginning of the Season of Lent, a wonderful article appeared online from *America* magazine, published by the US Jesuits. Sometimes these articles come at just the right moment for me, and this was one of those times.

The article is entitled ['What should I give up for Lent?' is the wrong question to start with.](#)—and it made me stop and think about my readiness for this great season of penitence and preparation.

There's nothing wrong with giving things up for Lent *per se*. In fact, it is one of the penitential practices encouraged by the Church's tradition.

But as with many things in the Christian life, the what is less important than the why. All our Lenten practices, whatever they might be, are geared to renewing our relationship with Jesus, and designed to assist us to live more closely as a disciple of Jesus. Asking myself about the why will determine the what of Lent for 2023, and that is probably how it should be.

Rather than simply rolling on into Lent and doing the same thing I do every year, an easy temptation when there's so much going on, I paused and took the time to ponder exactly why I needed to embrace the opportunity that Lent offers each of us each year.

On a personal note: I'll be away from the Parishes overnight this coming Friday as I attend my youngest sister's engagement party in Townsville. I

(Continued on page 2)

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.

leave bright and early on Friday morning and will be back in time for the weekend Masses.

Regretfully this means that the usual availability of Reconciliation that would ordinarily take place at 10am on the first Saturday of the month will not occur this month.

Also as a result of my travels, the bulletin for next weekend will need to be finalized and printed by lunchtime on Thursday.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Andrew

Lenten Program Resources

Copies of the book for the 2023 Lenten Program from the Diocese of Wollongong (*Triumph*) are now available to those who indicated they would like to be part of a Lenten Group. They are currently being distributed. There are a small number of 'spares' for those who might like them—strictly on a first come, first served basis. Contact Fr Andrew to acquire the 'spares'.

The recordings that accompany the program are also available from Fr Andrew.

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.

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.

World Day of Prayer

The focus for the World Day of Prayer 2023 is Taiwan, with the theme "I have heard about your faith".



The **Gresford** World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Helen's Church, East Gresford on Thursday 2 March, commencing at 10.30am. It will be followed by a lunch at *The Twin Rivers Café*.

The **Dungog** World Day of Prayer service will be held at Christ Church Anglican Church, Dungog on Friday 3 March, commencing at 7pm. A supper will follow afterwards.

All welcome!

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.

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.

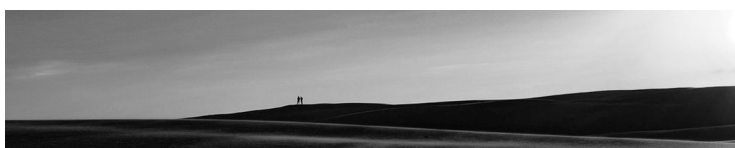
Availability of Sacrament of Penance

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

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.



Update from John Bradley

The latest update from John Bradley (including some wonderful photos) is available on the Parishes' website or by going to bit.ly/3EmyG9c.

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.

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.

An indicative cost is \$3,500 plus airfares.

If you would like further information about this encounter trip, you can visit [Samoa & American Samoa \(10th – 22nd April 2023\)](https://www.palms.org.au). 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 the needs of people of Turkiye and Syria effected by recent earthquakes. 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.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Trusting God

The testing and temptation of Jesus echoes the plight of the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert for forty years. They relied on God to provide them with food and protection and ultimately lead them into the land that was promised to them. They had to trust that God would deliver these things in God's own time and way. Jesus is tempted to ignore God's time and ways by seizing for himself food, protection and ownership of the land. The temptations of Jesus and the people of Israel are all about trusting God.

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.

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)

1st Week of Lent, Year A

Monday—27 February

Tuesday—28 February

Wednesday—1 March

10am Funeral for Terry Johnson
5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—2 March

No Mass

10.30am World Day of Prayer Service @ East Gresford

Friday—3 March

No Mass Fr Andrew attending a family event in Townsville—returning on Saturday.

Saturday—4 March

No confessions today

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—5 March

2nd Sunday of Lent

8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

There will be a morning tea after the 8am Mass at Dungog next Sunday 5 March. Please bring a plate to share and stay to enjoy the company.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Terry Johnson.

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.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm Ps 50:
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading Romans 5:12-19

Acclamation 1 John 2:5
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

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."

Project Compassion 2023

For those who may wish to have them, a supply of Project Compassion boxes or Weekly Envelopes are available from the churches this weekend. Please take a box or set of envelopes if you wish to.

This year there is also the option of donating via our Project Compassion fundraising page. This page can be found by using the following link bit.ly/3lvYYPE or via your



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.