



# 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 MARCH 2023

### 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, 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](mailto:dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au)

W: [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dungog.catholic.edu.au)

#### A Pastoral Note ...

The coming week contains a full range of activities that will see me absent from the Parishes.

On Tuesday, I will be driving to Sydney to collect the vestments for the bishops to use on Friday night at Bishop Michael's Liturgical Reception and Installation. When I return from Sydney, I'll be attending the annual dinner for Parish Leaders (i.e., priests, lay leaders, and parish leadership teams) in Newcastle.

On Wednesday, the annual Parish Leadership Day will take place. This day gathers all those in parish leadership for ongoing formation and for discussion around issues that impact on parish life. I will also be having a 'walk through' rehearsal for Friday night's event. On Wednesday evening, the annual Priests/Principals Dinner will take place in Newcastle.

On Thursday, the annual Priests/Principals Day will take place in Newcastle. Each year a guest speaker is engaged to facilitate conversation on a topic that impacts on the life of schools in our parishes. It's also a good opportunity to develop the relationship between schools and the parishes in which they sit.

I will return to Dungog on Thursday evening—thankfully—though my return will be short-lived!

On Friday, after I have celebrated the usual Friday morning Mass with parishioners and the Years 3 & 4 students from St Joseph's, I will return

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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.

to Newcastle to undertake the final preparations for the Liturgical Reception and Installation of Bishop Michael Kennedy as the 9th Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle, and then, in the evening, to play my part in bringing that liturgy to fruition.

I'll be back in Dungog late on Friday night—and will be looking forward to a good night's sleep by that stage.

I do apologise for being away so much this week. In this case it results from the coming together of something already planned (the two seminar days) and something we weren't expecting right now (a new Bishop!)

Have a blessed week,

Fr Andrew

### **Holy Week & Paschal Triduum**

With the great celebration of Easter drawing ever closing, please note the schedule of liturgy and public devotions that will take place during the week leading up to Easter Sunday:

Sunday 2 April

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

**Masses as usual.**

Monday 3 April

*No Masses or public devotions today*

Tuesday 4 April

7pm Chrism Mass @ Cathedral

Wednesday 5 April

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 6 April

*Holy Thursday*

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper @  
Dungog

Friday 7 April

*Good Friday*

10am Stations of the Cross @ Dungog, East  
Gresford, and Clarence Town

3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion @  
Dungog

Saturday 8 April

*Holy Saturday*

7pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night @  
Dungog

Sunday 9 April

*Sunday of the Resurrection*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

10am 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.

### **Installation of Most Rev Michael Kennedy as the ninth Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

The Liturgical Reception and Installation of Most Rev Michael Kennedy as the ninth Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle will be held on Friday 17 March 2023 at 6pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.

This important event in the life of our Diocese is an *invitation only* event. Invitations have been issued and each parish has been allocated places and asked to nominate their parish representatives and RSVP for those people.

The installation will be live streamed on the evening of Friday 17 March and can be watched via our website: [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)

There will be opportunities to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy following the Installation. Bishop Michael is committed to visiting with, and meeting the people of our Diocese, and has dedicated significant time as he commences with our Diocese to visit each region and connect with the people of our Diocese. Further information will be shared about the visit of Bishop Michael Kennedy to our region soon.

### **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.

## 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 our 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: Rose McAllister, Manager Formation & Education (0414 962 922) or Nicki Graham, Officer Formation & Education (0417 773 444)

### 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](http://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/3RnsTpb](http://bit.ly/3RnsTpb). 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](http://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 \(10th – 22nd April 2023\)](http://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 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 the Caritas website [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/](http://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.

## Living the Gospel

### Personal encounter

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

## 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/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/).

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

3rd Week of Lent, Year A

Monday—13 March

Tuesday—14 March

Wednesday—15 March

**No Mass** Fr Andrew attending the annual Parish Leadership Seminar Day in Newcastle.

Thursday—16 March

**No Mass** Fr Andrew attending the annual Priest/Principals Day in Newcastle.

Friday—17 March

Solemnity of St Patrick

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (with Year 3 & 4 students from St Joseph's)

6pm Installation of Bishop Michael @ Sacred Heart Cathedral (see notice on page two)

Saturday—18 March

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—19 March

4th Sunday of Lent

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea in Dungog will take place next Sunday, 19 March, after the 9.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share, and stay to enjoy good company and good conversation.

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

### Those Who Have Died:

### Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In March:

Gordon Smith, Dan Harrison, Linda Gleeson, Vincent Smith, Eileen Lane, Marie Williams, Gwen Richards, Alexander Loudon, Claude McGinty, Herb Trappel, Allan Turner, Arthur Preece, Thelma Lowe, Joyce Copus, Leo Maher, Matthew Harding, Vincent Lane, Vince Banister, Gerry Gehrig.

*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, Bert Preece, Naida McCarthy.

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Exodus 17:3-7

**Psalm** Ps 94:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**2nd Reading** Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

**Acclamation** cf John 4:42

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** John 4:5-42

### Memorial Acclamation

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

## 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. 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](http://bit.ly/3lvYYPE) or via your mobile device with the QR code here.



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March:

*"We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering."*

## 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.