



# 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 MARCH 2023

### 5TH 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...

In June 2022, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter entitled *Desiderio Desideravi*, on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God.

There is a long history behind the writing of this letter, a history that stretches back beyond the Second Vatican Council that called for the Church's liturgy to be reformed and renewed. The more immediate cause of the letter, however, has an interesting life that touches on more than just liturgy.

Having read the letter, and given my role as Pastor, I am mindful that I have a duty to do something in response.

To that end, and if there is a general interest in the parishes, I would be more than happy to put together a short series of conversations that cover some relevant topics of interest that fall into the broad category of 'liturgical formation' and then facilitate these conversations in the parishes.

My initial thinking would be either a fortnightly or monthly gathering, but I am open to suggestions from you as to the best timing of our gatherings.

I want to stress that a) I haven't prepared these conversations as yet, and b) I won't prepare them unless there's an interest.

If this sounds like something we as parishes would like to do, drop me an email, give me a call, or let me know at any point. And watch this space!

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.

### Preparations for the Paschal Triduum

Empty rosters are in each of the churches of the two parishes for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum, and particularly for the primary celebrations of Holy Thursday night, Good Friday afternoon and the Easter Vigil.

Although these primary celebrations will take place at St Mary's, Dungog, they are celebrations of both parishes, and so parishioners from both places are able to nominate themselves for roles during this primary festival of the Church's year.

It would be of great benefit if people could nominate themselves by next Sunday (at the latest) so final preparations can be made.

### Chrism Mass 2023

This year's Chrism Mass will take place during Holy Week on **Tuesday 4 April at 7.00pm** in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West. This is a first opportunity for all who wish to gather, to celebrate with our new Bishop, Michael Kennedy at Mass and a light supper. All are welcome. For more information, visit [bit.ly/3mJILXH](https://bit.ly/3mJILXH).

**Parish Volunteers Required** are still needed from Clarence Town, East Gresford, and Summer Hill, willing to collect the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens on behalf of their respective churches. Please contact Fr Andrew in the first instance by email (preferable) or phone.

### 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.

**Please note:** The Sacrament of Penance will not be available once the Paschal Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening, except in the case of emergencies.



### Palm Sunday Next Weekend

Next Sunday, we celebrate *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*, the beginning of Holy Week. In light of that please be aware of the following:

1. **Greenery** for the beginning of the Mass: with the unavailability of bulk palm orders, please bring a piece of greenery with you to Mass for blessing as we start. The greenery can be of any description.
2. The **Proclamation of the Passion** takes place during Mass, and will take be proclaimed in three voices. The two readers will join Fr Andrew in the proclamation of the Passion.
3. If we are still experiencing **warmer weather** next weekend, it may be advisable to bring some water with you to ensure you stay hydrated and safe.

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



As we draw closer to the end of the Season of Lent, it would be appreciated if parishioners could make preparations to finalise any contributions so they can be remitted to Caritas Australia early in the Easter Season.

### Tuesday Nights of Lent in Dungog

In Lent 2023, Mark Wilson is coordinating 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.

## 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)

### Holy Week & Paschal Triduum

The celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum is as follows:

Sunday 2 April

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

**Weekend 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

## 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.

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Jesus wept

"Jesus wept" is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus and Jesus is clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. That Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny the grief and mourning at Lazarus' death.

## 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)

5th Week of Lent, Year A

Monday—27 March

Tuesday—28 March

Wednesday—29 March

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—30 March

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday—31 March

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—1 April

10am Reconciliation @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—2 April

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Ezekiel 37:12-14

**Psalm** Ps 129:

With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption.

**2nd Reading** Romans 8:8-11

**Acclamation** John 8:12

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** John 11:1-45

**Memorial Acclamation**

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

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea in Dungog will take place next Sunday after the 8am Mass. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good company, and good conversation.

## 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."*

## 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, Michael Primrose, Peter Rooke.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Death for Life

The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity. This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader themselves is also the recipient of that sacrifice.

## 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)