



## A Reflection

by *Diane Bergant CSA*

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

**Dianne Bergant CSA** was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.



## 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.

## Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Alan Ashpole**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism at St Patrick's today.

## St Joseph's School Holy Week Liturgy

St Joseph's School will celebrate Holy Week with a liturgy in St Mary's Church on Thursday, 6 April, at 9am.

## Musical Update for Dungog

With the coming of Easter, there'll be a couple of minor changes to the music at Dungog:

- In addition to the other parts of the Mass that we are currently singing, we're going to start singing the 'Holy, Holy, Holy'.
- The Recessional Hymn will return.

## 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](http://bit.ly/3mJILXH).

## 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.

## 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)



### 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.

### 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.

### Engaging Your Faith Online Lectures

Catholic Theological College will be offering a series of 18 online sessions across May 2023 in their *Engaging Your Faith* series.

This set of sessions is entitled 'Theology, Vatican II, Scripture, Spirituality, Science & Faith'.

Attend all of them, or only those that pique your interest. Each session is available at a cost of \$25.

For more information and to register, visit CTC's website—[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](https://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/).

### Parish Liturgical Conversations

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, if members of the parishes are interested in a series of conversations about the how and why of the Church's liturgy, please let Fr Andrew know.

Thoughts about other possible conversation series are also welcome.

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

## Holy Week & Paschal Triduum

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

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*

9am St Joseph's School Holy Week Liturgy @ Dungog

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

## Today's Liturgy:

***Our liturgy begins outside the doors of the church for those who can join us.***

**Entrance** Matthew 21:1-11

**1st Reading** Isaiah 50:4-7

**Psalm** Ps 21:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**2nd Reading** Philippians 2:6-11

**Acclamation** Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel** Matthew 26:14—27:66

***Please be seated at any point during the Passion if you need to be seated.***

**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 today after the 8am Mass. Please and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

### Those Who Have Died:

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

Bede Gehrig, Ruth Jones, Lenore McDermott, Paula Murphy, Robert Holdom, Dorothy Bowtell, Rex Garland, Bruno Rocco, Herbert John Preece, Allie Allen, Peter Allen, Tom O'Driscoll, Paddy Kilpinen, Bill Tyne, Neil Faber.

*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.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April:

*"We pray for the spread and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens."*

## 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.