



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 23 APRIL 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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
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Parish School

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A Pastoral Note...

One of the duties that goes with my role as Master of Ceremonies is to occasionally take questions from clergy members and others across the diocese.

At a recent gathering with some clergy, one of them (I withhold the name to protect the innocent!) asked me about how to respond to some of his parishioners who were demanding he announce which Preface and Eucharistic Prayer he was going to use at Sunday Mass.

My initial response was "Don't!", but we went on to talk about the very nature of liturgy as something that is not found in a Missal, either the one used on the altar, or which parishioners might have in their hands.

Liturgy—of its nature—is an enacted reality, something that only truly exists when it is celebrated. It is not about books; it's about being brought to life in a particular time and place.

For that reason, while a presider needs a copy of the Missal to lead the celebration (there are way too many prayers to memorise completely) and those who proclaim the Word need to do so from a book, the celebration of liturgy is something that is **spoken** and **heard**, rather than something that is **seen** and **read**.

The advent of personal missals was never something envisaged by the post-conciliar reform of the liturgy. Except in the case of those whose particular circumstances means that they cannot

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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.

hear the Word proclaimed or the proper prayers, personal missals are better seen as a means of preparing at home before attending Mass, or a means of reflecting at home afterwards.

There is a cynical belief among many liturgists that they came into being largely so publishers could make money! The assembly that gathers to celebrate a particular liturgy at a particular place and a particular time ought not to be so bound to a book that they cannot enter into the celebration of that particular liturgy fully, consciously, and actively.

The clergy member I spoke with recently isn't going to start announcing which Preface and Eucharistic Prayer he'll be praying each week (thank goodness!), but is going to start inviting his parishioners to put their missals aside (or leave them at home) so that they can be attentive to what is happening rather than focused on the page of a book.

Perhaps it's worth a thought.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Dungog & Clarence Town Local Churches Association

The Local Churches Association in Dungog & Clarence Town has not bounced back from COVID yet, and a meeting has been called to determine any future for the association.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday 27 April** at **1.30pm** at the Anglican Church Hall in Dungog.

Regretfully, Fr Andrew is not able to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement, but it would be good to have some of our parishioners present at the meeting.

ANZAC Day

While not a liturgical occasion, strictly speaking, the annual day of remembrance on ANZAC Day has a significant place in the life of Australian society, and increasingly so.

From the traditional Dawn Service, to the later march and Service, I can but encourage you to come together in community and remember those who have offered so much in service of Australia—and pray that not too many more be called upon to do the same.

Mass will be celebrated at Dungog at 9am on ANZAC Day, a time that permits those who may wish to participate in the other commemorative services to do so.

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/.

Parish Liturgical Conversations

Thanks to all those who have indicated an interest in the proposed Liturgical Conversations. There is certainly enough interest for this to go ahead. I'll go ahead and develop an outline of topics.

Some other topics for possible conversation series have already been proposed—other suggestions are more than welcome.

More details coming soon!

Photos from the Palms Encounter Trip

The Parishes website contains a story that features some photos taken during the recent Palms Encounter Trip to Samoa—including some of John Bradley himself at work in his classroom.

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. 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.

Dungog's 'Women—Kind—Festival'

The Dungog & District Chamber of Commerce is introducing the 'Women—Kind—Festival' from 19 to 21 May to shine the light on women and at the same time support local business and not-for-profit organisations in the region.

The Festival commences with the Stella Bistro Fundraising High Tea at 11am on Friday 19 May. Tickets for this event are now available by going to <https://www.trybooking.com/CGSUC>.

On Saturday 20 May, there will be a Market Day in Dowling Street, with live music and street stalls lining the CBD.

Further information is available on the Chamber's website—www.ddcc.org.au

Project Compassion 2023—LAST CALL!

Now that we have entered the Season of Easter, it would be appreciated if parishioners could finalise any Project Compassion contributions by **Monday 24 April**. This date will allow the funds to be remitted to Caritas Australia and be put to use.



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 mobile device with the QR code here.



Dare to Dream!

"We have had dreams and there is no one to interpret them..." and Joseph said to them, "do not interpretations belong to God?" (Gen 40:8)

Join Heart of Life's director, Clare Shearman, and guests in their 'dream lab', available via Zoom each Wednesday of May between 5pm and 6.30pm.

Based on the Dreams session previously offered as part of the Siloam program, this five-week program will explore the significance of our dreams, include the practice of dream circles, provide guidance and practice for working with dreams—our own and others', consider the potential of our dreams to personally and collectively shape the future.

As Parish Bulletins are now being posted on the website, those who sign up will receive an email letting you know when this takes place—so sign up to stay in touch!

The program is offered by Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. The cost is \$130. Book and pay via the website www.heartoflife.melbourne. For more information email info@heartoflife.melbourne or call 9890 1101.



Have YOU thought?

Recognising Jesus

These two disciples, although not any of the Twelve, would have considered themselves close followers of Jesus. They are devastated by his death and so must have known Jesus quite well. However, they fail to recognise him when he joins them on the road. Whether they were prevented from recognising him or whether he was somehow transformed through the resurrection we don't know. But two close followers were unable to recognise him walking beside them. Perhaps we shouldn't feel too bad, two millennia later, when we fail to recognise Jesus as he continues to walk beside us.

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.

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)

3rd Week of Easter

Monday 24 April

Tuesday 25 April

ANZAC Day

9am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 26 April

Feast of St Mark

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 27 April

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 28 April

Memorial of St Peter Chanel

No Mass No local Mass because of ...

10.30am Funeral Mass for Lyn Barry @ Wallsend

Saturday 29 April

Memorial of St Catherine of Siena

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 30 April

4th Sunday of Easter

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm Ps 15:
Lord, you will show us the path of life.

2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

Acclamation Cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April:

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

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Lynette Barry.

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, 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, Graham McCarthy.

LIVING GOSPEL

Living the journey

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

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.