

Sacraments of Initiation for Children

All the online modules are now available any for children wishing to complete their journey to full Christian Initiation. Enrolment into the process is as simple as filling out an online form available on the Parishes' website—visit bit.ly/3NuMAv7 for all the details.

For children who might not yet be baptised, or who were baptised in other church traditions, the journey is slightly different and will require some additional steps. The best place to start a conversation about this is by contacting Fr Andrew.

Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June: *"We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families."*

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Marriage Tribunal

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses with marriage breakdown and divorce, and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370.

Changes to our Weekday Mass Schedule

I've been approached by some parishioners who are interested in adding one more Mass to our weekday Mass schedule. The request is for a Mass to be celebrated on a Tuesday.

There are two things to say: a) I have no objection to adding another Mass as long as a significant number of people are interested in doing so, and b) My personal preference—if parishioners were interested in another Mass—would be to have the evening Mass on a Tuesday evening, and a morning Mass on the Wednesday.

A decision such as this is not something to rush into quickly (apart from the fact that I have commitments that I have already agreed to and which I need to honour). It may be a few months before we can introduce any changes, but I am content to do so if this is what parishioners wish.

I would encourage parishioners to talk about among yourself and then let me know what the thinking of the two parishes are.

Fr Andrew

Parish Liturgical Conversations

With my apologies for the delay caused by the recent head cold, I am delighted to announce that the first of the "Liturgical Conversations" will take place on **Thursday 6 July** in the Dungog Parish Hall commencing at **4pm**.

The session will be repeated at St Helen's, East Gresford on **Saturday 8 July** commencing at 10.30am.

The first conversation will go back to the beginning and address the liturgical principles that came from the Second Vatican Council's first document, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.



Planned Giving Envelopes

New planned giving envelopes for the 2023/2024 financial year are now available for collection from each of the churches. Please take the time to collect your set of envelopes in advance of the end of the current financial year.

Please contact Kerry in the Parish Office if you have any questions about the new envelopes.

2023 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service

The diocesan 2023 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service will take place on **Sunday 2 July 2023** starting at **1pm** in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. All are invited to attend.

The service is held in collaboration with local Aboriginal and faith communities. Join with local Elders, including Canon Aunty Di Langham, who will lead a special reflection.

The service will include an official Welcome to Country with Aunty Sandra Griffin, Awabakal Country. A special water ceremony will take place and those attending are asked to bring a small container of water from Country with them on the day.

Refreshments and light meal will be served.

RSVP are requested by Sunday 25 June via NAIDOCprayerservice.eventbrite.com.au or by contacting Kate P: (02) 4979 1329.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word—Part 6

The Gospel having been proclaimed, the next thing to occur during the Liturgy of the Word is the Homily.

The *GIRM* has this to say about the particular significance of the Homily:

The Homily is part of the Liturgy and is highly recommended, for it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. It should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the Ordinary or the Proper of the Mass of the day and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners. (n.65)

There's plenty of scope, therefore, from which the preacher can draw inspiration for their homily, but it's important to also note what is not included: the homily must draw from texts used during the Mass, which essentially rules out the older notion of the "sermon" based on dogmatic or thematic sources. Such a practice must now be seen as contrary to the *GIRM* regardless of how often some people demand it.

The giving of the Homily properly belongs to the Presider of the Mass, although there is the possibility of another priest or a deacon doing so on occasion and by invitation of the Presider. The nature of the Homily is *presidential*, not *ministerial* (see the comments about this distinction from last week's column).

The Homily should be given from "the chair or at the ambo itself or, if appropriate, in another worthy place" (*GIRM*, n.136). Like any time when a list is given like this in the *GIRM*, it is also to be read in terms of preference: the place for the Homily is clearly outlined.

At the conclusion of the Homily, it is appropriate for a period of silence to be observed (*GIRM*, n.56, 136), again to allow the opportunity for reflection on what has been said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

At the conclusion of this period of silence, the Assembly moves onto the proclamation or profession of the **Creed** (also referred to as the Symbol or Profession of Faith), of which there are two versions, the Niceno-Constantinopolitan or the Apostles', either of which can be used when the Creed is required (as it is on Sundays, Solemnities and other particular celebrations of a more solemn nature).

The *Order of Mass* expresses a firm preference for the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed as the

default version, except during Lent and Easter when the Apostles' Creed is preferred.

During the Creed—whichever one is professed—there is a moment when the Assembly bows in honour of the Incarnation. On the Solemnity of the Annunciation and at Christmas, we genuflect rather than bow because of the significance of those particular feast days.

It should also be noted that occasionally, the Creed is not professed when it ordinarily would be. On those occasions when one of the sacramental rites is joined to Mass, the sacramental action takes the place of the Creed, our celebration of the sacramental life of the Church being itself a proclamation of faith.

And with the Creed professed, there is only one part of the Liturgy of the Word remaining—but we'll talk about that in Part 7!

To be continued...

GOSPEL FOCUS

Real Presence

In the gospel passage, Jesus speaks a number of times about his followers eating his flesh and drinking his blood; "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." In the Eucharist, we celebrate the 'real presence' of Jesus, understanding that bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Christ. This change does not occur in a physical, observable way. The Church teaches that the 'substance' of bread and wine (what makes them bread and wine in essence) is changed but not the physical attributes. This is known as 'transubstantiation' – change of substance.

Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness and hospital procedures.

The course will be conducted over six Mondays from 9am to 4pm, beginning on 17 July and concluding on 21 August at Mackillop Parish, Charlestown. A certificate is awarded on completion. Registration is due by 1 July. For more information contact Fr Roger Zohrab 0408 151 481 or roger.zohrab@health,nsw.gov.au.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

10th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 12 June

Tuesday 13 June

Memorial of St Anthony of Padua

Wednesday 14 June

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 15 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 16 June

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (joined by Kinder,
Year 1 & 2 from St Joseph's)

10am Confessions @ Dungog

Saturday 17 June

Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 18 June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Baptism @ Clarence Town

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

Psalm Psalm 147
Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Acclamation John 6:51-52
Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:51-58

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat the Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea in Dungog will take place next Sunday (18 June) after the 9.30am Mass. Please bring a plat to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Planned Giving Receipts

As we approach the end of the 2022/2023 financial year, those who would like a receipt for their contribution are asked to let Kerry know **in writing to the Parish Office** before 30 June 2023.

It will not be possible to issue receipts if they are not requested in advance.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In June:

Nora Enright, Tom Richardson, Mary Clayden, Rudd Convery, Laura Black, Daphne Oades, Bede Johnson, Bruce Ralstone, Tom Stone, Noel Smith, Meryl Ryan, Edward Kealy, William Hudson, Sydney & Zita Osmond, Helen Collins, Gisela Kirston, Joan Oliver, Fr Brian Bailey, Kenny Barry, Roy Preece, Ken Cooper, Cheryl Maytom.

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.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Eucharist in Scripture

The gospel of John does not include any account of Jesus taking bread and wine and urging the disciples to 'do this in memory of me'. The three synoptic gospels, however, all feature these actions and words, as does Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which predates all of the gospels. Rather than using these words of institution, the gospel of John includes an entire chapter much earlier in the gospel in which Jesus theologises about the image of himself as the Bread of Life. It is this discourse, more than the Last Supper accounts, that provides much of the theological understanding of Eucharist.

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.