



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 18 JUNE 2023

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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

Gresford Faith Banister
 0427 536 248

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
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A Pastoral Note...

The events on Wine Country Drive last Sunday night has left a devastating mark not only on those immediately involved, but also on the broader community, particularly Singleton.

The death of so many people, the injuries of so many more, are not just human tragedies, but can leave us speechless before God as we try to fathom the sheer magnitude of the difference between life and death. The impact on the lives of first and second responders, on those who have lost loved ones or mates, on those who reminded of past tragedies beyond calculation.

As Christians, in the face of such tragedy, often our only response is one of prayer, and we will pray for all those whose lives have been impacted this weekend during our Sunday Masses.

The local Parish of Singleton, assisted by diocesan resources, will host a **Memorial Service** for those whose lives have been forever changed by a what was supposed to be a simple bus trip.

The **Memorial Service** will take place at **St Patrick's Church**, Queen St, **Singleton** on **Thursday 22 June** commencing at **6pm**. All are welcome to attend and join in prayer, and are invited to bring a small flower for use within the service.

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they, and all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

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.



Have you thought?

The labourers are few

This passage is often used as the basis for sermons, conversations or even marketing about vocations – vocations to religious life as well as lay vocations. The image of a rich harvest with not enough labourers to reap the harvest is a powerful one. In the Western world in particular today it is very true of priestly and religious vocations. However, it is equally true of lay vocations. Too few people are prepared to ‘own’ their faith and live the message of the gospel in their day to day work and interactions with others. In what way are you a labourer in the harvest?

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word—Part 7

The last element of the Liturgy of the Word is known by a number of names: the Universal Prayer, the Prayer of the Faithful, and the Bidding Prayer, to name but a few.

Notice, however, that the title implies the singular, not the plural. This is one prayer, not many prayers, even though the prayer may contain many petitions. The singular description is important to remind us that this is the prayer of the whole Assembly gathered in one place to praise the God who has drawn us together.

The *GIRM* has this to say about this particular element of the Liturgy of the Word:

In the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is desirable that there usually be such a form of prayer in Masses celebrated with the people, so that petitions may be offered for holy Church, for those who govern with authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for the salvation of the whole world. (n.69)

The purpose of this Prayer, then, is not about making announcements but about petitioning for God's assistance for those whom we pray.

The *GIRM* continues:

The series of intentions is usually to be:

- a) for the needs of the Church;
- b) for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world;
- c) for those burdened by any kind of difficulty;
- d) for the local community.

Nevertheless, in any particular celebration, such as a Confirmation, a Marriage, or at a Funeral, the series of intentions may be concerned more closely with the particular occasion. (n.70).

It's easy to see how we can readily come up with any number of petitions on a particular Sunday, yet the Prayer is not to be exhaustive on each occasion. As we see above, the Prayer stems from our response to the Word of God we have heard proclaimed, so the number of petitions on any particular occasion is limited by that. Generally speaking, somewhere between five and seven petitions are considered sufficient,

though, on some occasions, more may be needed.

Notice, too, in the list of what and who we are called to pray for, there is no mention of praying for the sick or the dead. As Paul Turner, whom I've mentioned before, remarks, we pray for the dead during the Eucharistic Prayer, while the sick more than likely falls into the category of "for the local community".

The text of each petition "should be sober, be composed with a wise liberty and in few words, and they should be expressive of the prayer of the whole community" (*GIRM*, n.71). They are not meant to be lengthy or directive as to God's actions; they are meant to express those things that we, the Assembly, believe are worthy of our prayer in light of what we have heard. Someone wise once said that when composing the petitions, we should have the Scriptures in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

The Universal Prayer is prayed while we stand, the petitions are proclaimed (preferably) from the Ambo, and there should be a common invocation after each petition. There is also the option for silence to replace such an invocation, although this seems to be a rarity in Australia.

The Universal Prayer is introduced by the Presider once the reader has reached the Ambo and is concluded by a prayer prayed on behalf of the Assembly by the Presider. After this is concluded, we sit and prepare ourselves to move into the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

So that concludes our journey through the Liturgy of the Word. Next week will see a short summary of some of the important aspects of what has appeared in these columns over the last couple of months before bringing our exploration to an end.

To be continued...

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)

11th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 19 June

Tuesday 20 June

Wednesday 21 June

Memorial of St Aloysius Gonzaga

5.30pm **No Mass**—Fr Andrew attending University Ethics Committee meeting

Thursday 22 June

Memorial of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 23 June

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 24 June

Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 25 June

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Exodus 19:2-6

Psalm Psalm 99

We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

2nd Reading Romans 5:6-11

Acclamation Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 9:36—10:18

Memorial Acclamation

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

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

Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Gilbert Shaw**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism at St Patrick's on Sunday.

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 **via the Parish Office** (phone, email or writing) 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, Margaret Mary Dooley.

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, Peter Rooke, Graham McCarthy.

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."

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.

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.

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.