



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 2 JULY 2023

13TH 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

Safeguarding Promotion

For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew in the first instance at the Parish Office (or mobile in emergencies).

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

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A Pastoral Note...

One of the "benefits" of not going away to an event that is cancelled is that one gets to turn their attention to things that have been lingering in the background for some time.

Apart from undertaking some decluttering activities, my attention this part week has been focussed on the need to get on with the task of establishing a Pastoral Council for the two parishes.

Having finalised the Statutes of the proposed Pastoral Council, copies of which can be found on the website or requested from the Parish Office, I can now announce the following timetable for the establishment of the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford:

- Close of nominations for elected members will 5pm on Sunday, 6 August 2023;
- Election of elected members, if necessary, will take place on Sunday, 20 August 2023;
- The new Council will take office on 1 October 2023.

Of course, all of that, and everything below, will mean nothing unless folks are prepared to step forward and offer themselves for election, or accept my offer of appointment. At the very heart of a successful Pastoral Council, however, is the necessity of holding elections, by which I mean there are so many people willing to serve on the Council for the sake of the parishes that we are forced to actually hold an election.

So please give some thought and prayer to who might be the right person to serve as a member of the Pastoral Council. And don't forget, that person might just be you!

So, a few answers to some expected questions:

What is the purpose of the Council?

This is a very good question, and one I have often been asked in other postings. Apart from being a requirement of diocesan law, the breadth of wisdom and experience that a Parish Council brings together is vital to ensuring a vibrant, active and engaged Parish community.

The purposes of the Council, as currently outlined in the Statutes are thus:

- Studying and assessing the pastoral life and works of the Parishes, and proposing a Pastoral Plan to meet them;
- Promoting safeguarding within the parishes;
- Developing and enacting practices to make the parishes child-safe organisations, and meet our obligations under civil and church law;
- For organising one Pastoral Assembly and one Pastoral Gathering during each term, i.e., each three years; and
- Providing advice and counsel on any matters he places before the Council.

What is the constitution of the Council?

Each of the two parishes will elect two members, and I will appoint two other members. In addition, there are some *ex officio* members: any assistant priests or deacons (we have none), the Principal of any parish school (we only have one), and the Parish Promoter of Safeguarding (we currently do not have one).

In theory, therefore, the Pastoral Council will have a membership of nine.

As the Council is advisory to the Parish Priest, I am not a member of the Pastoral Council, although I attend and preside over all meetings of the Council.

What is the term of the Council?

For elected and appointed members, the term of the Council is three years. The nature of *ex officio* members is that they stay part of the Council while they hold their position.

Who can nominate for election?

The qualification for election (and this for being appointed) are contained in the Statutes—see section 4.2. To be elected or appointed, an individual must be:

- A member of the Church, and
- Over the age of eighteen, and
- Be “outstanding in firm faith, high moral standards and prudence, and
- Live within the boundaries of the Parish for whom they will be elected or appointed, or
- Not living within the Parish, regularly attend Sunday Mass in the Parish.

Who can vote in the election?

The qualifications for voting in an election are the same as the qualifications for being elected, with the exception of the requirement to be “outstanding in firm faith, high moral standards and prudence”.

As strange as it may sound, in order to give effect to the establishment, I have issued two decrees dated 30 June 2023 and which take effect on 1 July 2023:

The first—2023/001—approves and promulgates the Statutes of the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford.

The Statutes are, for want of a better description, the constitution of the Council, describing its purpose, its membership, how it operates, etc. No collegiate body in the Church should have Statutes to guide how it works and operates.

The second decree—2023/002—both establishes the Parish Council formally, and details the various and necessary requirements for holding the first election. Subsequent elections will be governed by the Statutes of the Council themselves.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew



Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for June: “We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.”

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize that they stand upon the traditional country of Gringai clan the Worimi people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country.

We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

Workshops & Cathedral Lecture

We are excited that Father Richard Lennan will be visiting his hometown this August. During his stay he is offering several workshops and presentations. Join Richard in 'filling' the Church for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace.

Tuesday, 15 August—Workshop open to all the diocesan community: *The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities*. Maitland Gaol, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Wednesday, 16 August—Cathedral Lecture, open to all the diocesan community: *Shaping the Church's Future: The Grace of Creative Faithfulness*. Sacred Heart Cathedral, 6pm-7pm.

Friday, 18 August—Workshop open to all the diocesan community: *The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities*. Forster Tuncurry Parish Hall, 9.30 am-3.30pm.

For more information and to register, please visit bit.ly/3qXGZnX.

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

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.

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.

Rediscovering Joy—Dr Michele Connolly

How are hearts set on fire with love of God and love of the world? 'The only thing that counts for me,' wrote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 'is not to propagate God but to discover him.' Join us for a day of formation with Dr Michele Connolly, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame Australia.

In a retreat style and setting, Michele will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Monday 11 September, Crown Plaza Hunter Valley, 9.30am – 3.30pm, \$30pp.

RSVP: 13 August 2023. Register at bit.ly/3pqWSD9.

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.



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.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

13th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 3 July

Feast of St Thomas

Tuesday 4 July

Wednesday 5 July

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 6 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

4pm Liturgical Conversation @ Dungog
(Parish Hall)

Friday 7 July

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 8 July

10.30am Liturgical Conversation @ East
Gresford

Sunday 9 July

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

Psalm Psalm 88

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Reading Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Acclamation 1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 10:37-42

Memorial Acclamation

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

Morning tea at Clarence Town is after the 8am Mass today. Please stay, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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.

from the
perspective

of a disciple

What must it have been like to be one of those disciples of Jesus? Having followed their Rabbi, or teacher, for some time, he sends them out to 'have a go' at doing what he has been doing: preaching; proclaiming the good news; healing; curing lepers and casting out demons. The focus of a disciple is to be like their Rabbi. This is their first real test of being a disciple ... seeking to go out into the world without Jesus and do the things that they've seen their Rabbi do; to be like their Rabbi!

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In July: Kathleen Kealy, Veronica Trappel, Peter Fortunaso, Vera Pritchard, Maisie Atkins, George Allen, Alan Hinton, Eileen Sandiland, Daphny Massey, Paul Murphy, Lex Loudon, Samuel Rizzuto, Marie Garner, Maurice Garner, Ross Young, Pat Hartcher, Joyce Clark, Helen Hall, John Diver, Joan Mitchell, Kevin Murphy.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, 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, Matthew Kerr.