



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 9 JULY 2023

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au

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

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au



Today is Sea Sunday

Today the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy.

The appeal today is for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this Catholic ministry, please visit bit.ly/3PIrWJ8.

Gresford Community Action Planning Event

A two day community action planning event, to be facilitated by Peter Kenyon, will take place on 11 & 12 July, and will feature a number of workshops on various subjects.

More information is available on our website or our Facebook page.



Availability of Sacrament of Penance

Please be aware that the current scheduled times for the Sacrament of Penance will cease at the end of July.

The Sacrament will always be available at by contacting Fr Andrew.

Establishment of the Pastoral Council

A reminder that the following is the timetable for the establishment of the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford:

- Close of nominations for elected members will be 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.

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, the right person might just be you!

aMeN caMiNo Community Walk

The aMeN CaMiNo is a response to a desire to be in communion with each other and our sacred earth. It is an opportunity to pause from routine, immerse yourself in reflection, contemplation and to provide a moment of space for each person to be conscious of God's gift of Grace. We understand not everyone is able to walk the five-day 100 km pilgrimage, so we invite you to sample the experience through the aMeN caMiNo Community Walk.

Meet at Gun Club Rd Merewether on Saturday 22 July, commencing at 8am and finishing around 11am, for a 10 km walk through Glenrock Lagoon and loop back to Gun Club Rd. To register please visit bit.ly/3NZU5dG.

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.

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.

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

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.



Opportunities from the Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

Heart of Life Seminars – Semester 2. Please join us!

What better way to rejuvenate your spirituality, learn something new and meet a great bunch of people – join Heart of Life seminars in-person or online from the comfort of your own community on a Monday or Wednesday morning for the next two terms. From 17 July 2023 - 9 November 2023. Days and times vary according to the Seminars chosen. For descriptions of all of the Seminars visit bit.ly/449WBUg.

Are You Retired or Seeking A Deeply Rewarding Ministry to Others?

We invite you to join Heart of Life's **Taster Session 2 on Saturday 5 August 2023, 9.30-11am, via Zoom**, where we'll share with you information on our formation programs to become a spiritual director, pastoral supervisor, spiritual leader and contemplative listener to others. Our programs develop a compassionate, listening heart. The session will include a facilitated reflection session led by formation team members at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via bit.ly/3rf7AgD or email info@heartoflife.melbourne for more details.

Retreat in Everyday Life – Moments of Grace

Taking place over five weeks, beginning Monday, 31 July and concluding 28 August at Heart of Life, (Malvern, or via Zoom), with flexible timing. The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of Grace'.

This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way. Register your interest visit bit.ly/439WvKP or info@heartoflife.melbourne and we will be in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

14th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 10 July

Feast of St Thomas

Tuesday 11 July

Memorial of St Benedict

Wednesday 12 July

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 13 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 14 July

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 15 July

Memorial of St Bonaventure

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 16 July

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm Psalm 144

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

2nd Reading Romans 8:9, 11-13

Acclamation Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

Memorial Acclamation

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next week (16 July). Please bring a plate to share, and stay us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July: "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."

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.



Have you thought? Thank God!

Jesus' quite intimate words to the Father in today's passage carry with them an enormous amount of relief and perhaps released frustration. It is almost a cry of 'Thank God!' for his disciples have finally 'got it'. Jesus blesses the Father for revealing the truth to these simple men whom Jesus had chosen to follow him. The men Jesus chose as disciples were not following another rabbi and so had not been the very best students from their village. They had the education of most children but nothing more – otherwise they would have been following someone else!

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.