



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 16 JULY 2023

15TH 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

Welcome Deacon Naveen

We warmly welcome Deacon Naveen Susainathan to our parishes this weekend as he joins us as part of the diocese's induction and welcome process for members of the clergy joining us from overseas. Deacon Naveen will be preaching at our Masses this weekend (to give you a break from Fr Andrew's voice).

Please make Deacon Naveen welcome as you encounter him.

A Pastoral Note...

The Parable of the Sower that we hear in our Gospel this weekend is one that is well-known to us, and, because of the explanation that we hear in the longer version, a piece of Scripture that we believe we understand in its meaning.

Hearing the explanation that Jesus supplies to his disciples immediately draws our focus to the need to prepare the soil—that is, ourselves—to receive the Word of God that is scattered by the Sower. When we have appropriately prepared ourselves to receive the Word of God, then it will firmly take root in our hearts and bear much fruit.

And while that is certainly true, and something that we should embrace on a constant basis, surely there is another part of this Sunday's Gospel that we should be attentive to.

And that, I would suggest, is the activity of the Sower, the one who scatters the seeds far and wide, almost wildly. This imagery is taken from the well-known agricultural practices of Palestine in the time of Jesus. The first hearers of this parable would have immediately recognised what Jesus was referring to.

While it is necessary for our hearts to be prepared to receive the Word of God that is to be sown by

the Sower, it is also necessary for someone to be prepared to undertake that activity.

In the original parable, the Sower of the seed is not identified, and not mentioned in the interpretation provided by Jesus. But what if the Sower of the Word of God, the one who scatters it far and wide, wildly and without precision, is meant to be us in this time and in this place.

Having receive the Word of God in our hearts, having seen it take firm root there, what if the abundant yield it is supposed to produce requires us to move from being the recipient to the one who scatters?

Perhaps something to consider this coming week.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Historical Context

Matthew's community

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were confounded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

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.

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 for those wishing to celebrate it by contacting Fr Andrew.

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.



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!

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize we 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)

15th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 17 July

Tuesday 18 July

10am Funeral Mass for Bert Preece @
Clarence Town

Wednesday 19 July

5.30pm **No Mass—Fr Andrew in Newcastle
for University Ethics Committee.**

Thursday 20 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 21 July

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

10am Confessions @ Dungog

Saturday 22 July

Feast of St Mary Magdalene

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 23 July

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm Psalm 64

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

2nd Reading Romans 8:18-23

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

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 today (16 July). Please stay with 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 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: by phoning 4979 1390 or emailing childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au.

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

SCRIPTURAL

CONTEXT

A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Bert Preece.

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, Peter Rooke, Graham McCarthy, Matthew Kerr.