



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 23 JULY 2023

16TH 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 Father Raphael

We warmly welcome Father Raphael Madukwe 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. Fr Raphael will be presiding and preaching at our Masses this weekend.

Please make Fr Raphael welcome as you encounter him.

A Pastoral Note...

Elsewhere in this week's bulletin you'll find some information and a link to an audiovisual presentation concerning the safeguarding audit that the Diocese will be undergoing in the coming months.

Even though our own parishes are not being audited this time round (the audit will happen every three years), there are still things we have been working on as part of ensuring that we have all the appropriate systems and protections in place. Such undertakings are a continuous effort not a once off, and hence there is one particular part that it is now time to address.

For a number of years now, every parish in the diocese has been asked to have a **Promoter of Safeguarding** to take on the responsibility of leading the Parishes' safeguarding project.

Since my arrival twelve months ago I have been attempting to take up that responsibility, but it is now time to hand it over to someone else so that implementing safeguarding procedures and culture doesn't get lost among my other tasks. It is too important for that to happen.

So I am now seeking expressions of interest from an individual or from a group of people within the Parishes who might be willing to take up this task.

Those who fill such a responsibility will receive ongoing support from the Office of Safeguarding and will be part of the diocesan Safeguarding Promoters Network that is being put in place for mutual support.

If you have a good eye for detail, are able to manage multiple tasks and strands of work, have a good understanding of our local communities, and are able and willing to work alongside me, then I would love to hear from you.

Making contact with me to arrange a no obligation chat over coffee to discuss the nature of this role and so assist in your discerning whether you are a good fit for this role is always a possibility.

I can only encourage us all to prayerful consideration about this role, which is important not only for ensuring we meet our moral and legal compliance obligations, but also—and more importantly, ensuring that we do all we can to protect our children and vulnerable persons.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

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.

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.

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

Dungog Mother's Union Afternoon Tea

The Dungog Mother's Union will be hosting an afternoon of musical entertainment provided by students from Dungog High School on **Thursday 10 August** in the Christ Church Anglican Hall, Dowling St, Dungog.

The afternoon will commence at 1.30pm with the opening of the stall, with the musical entertainment commencing at 2pm.

The cost, including afternoon tea, is \$10, with all proceeds going towards the Mother's Union Overseas and Outreach programs.

Please RSVP to the Secretary, Margaret Flannery, on 4992 1839 or 0427 921 839.

Dungog Combined Churches Service

The Combined Churches of the Dungog area will be celebrating a Worship and Supper Night on **Sunday 30 July** commencing at **6.30pm** at the Dungog Uniting Church.

All are welcome to attend. Please bring something to share for supper.

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!



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.



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.

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

Parishioners may be aware that over the next few months, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is being audited against its compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

Our Director of Safeguarding, Sean Tynan, has recorded a short 15-minute presentation designed to let parishioners know about the audit process and, for those parishes who will be audited, what they can expect. That presentation can be found by going to bit.ly/3K5VOvo.

Although our own parishes are not being audited on this occasion, parishioners might be interested in knowing more about the audit process and the standards against which we might be audited in the future.

Fr Andrew

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

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)

16th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 24 July

Tuesday 25 July

Feast of St James

Wednesday 26 July

Memorial of Sts Joachim and Anne

11am Funeral for Nola Dooley @ East
Gresford

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 27 July

9.30am **No Mass—Fr Andrew in Newcastle
for meeting of College of Consultors.**

Friday 28 July

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 29 July

Memorial of Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 30 July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalm Psalm 85
Lord, you are good and forgiving.

2nd Reading Romans 8:26-27

Acclamation

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 13:24-30

Memorial Acclamation

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

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."

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgement. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Bert Preece, Nola Dooley.

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.