



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 6 AUGUST 2023

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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 Anton

We warmly welcome Anton Perera 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.

Anton is a student for priesthood in our diocese, and will be serving at our Masses this weekend. Please make Anton welcome.

A Pastoral Note...

I suddenly realised this week that I'm now at the stage of it being only four weeks until I board an aircraft and head to the US for my nephew's wedding!

I could have sworn there was so much more time to have things organised.

I will be absent from the Parish on annual leave from Friday 1 September returning in time for the Masses on the weekend of Sunday 1 October.

There will be no weekday Masses during my absence, and Fr George Anthicad has generously offered the support of the clergy of the Chisholm group of parishes in the event of funerals during my leave.

During my absence, **Fr Greg Arnold** has agreed to celebrate the weekend Masses on the first two weekends (i.e., Sunday 3 September, and Sunday 10 September), and I am yet to find someone who can cover the weekend Masses of the remaining weekends of my annual leave.

At this stage I am uncertain whether I will be able to find cover for the remaining weekends, which may mean that folks who want to attend Mass may need to travel to either Raymond Terrace or one of the Chisholm group of parishes.

There is, however, another alternative.

The alternative will be for our own local worshipping communities to celebrate a "Sunday Celebration of the Word" on those two Sundays, essentially a celebration that does not require a member of the clergy to preside, and which focuses on the community gathering to hear the Word of God proclaimed. While such celebrations can include the reception of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, this is not always the best option to adopt.

All that, of course, presumes I cannot find another priest to cover the two currently uncovered weekends—and I shall keep you posted on how things go.

And now back to all the other items on my pre-travel checklist!

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew



COUNCIL NOMINATIONS CLOSE TODAY!

A reminder that nominations for elected members of the Pastoral Council close at **5pm on Sunday, 6 August—THAT'S TODAY!**

Please give some final thoughts to who might be a suitable member of our parishes community to serve in this role.

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!

Parish Liturgical Conversations

The second of our "Liturgical Conversations" will take place on **Saturday 12 August** at St Helen's, East Gresford commencing at **10:30am**.

The session will be repeated in the Dungog Parish Hall on **Thursday 17 August** commencing at **4pm**.

This conversation will continue our exploration of the liturgical principles that came from the Second Vatican Council's first document, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

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.

Changes to our Weekday Mass Schedule

My thanks to those who have spoken to me about the suggestion of making additions to our weekday Mass schedule.

As a result of those conversations, I believe that I can confidently say the consensus of opinion suggests that, at this point at least, there is no need for any changes to be made.

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.

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.

'Come Rest A While' Reflection Day

In appreciation and interested Christian Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity to listen, reflect, and get to know other ministers. This year's reflection day will take place on **Saturday 9 September** at Charlestown, commencing at 10am and finishing 3.30pm. Morning tea and lunch is provided.

More details and registration is available at bit.ly/44BV6hM.

For enquiries or registration assistance, contact Sharon Murphy: phone 4979 1134, or email sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

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

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Moses and Elijah

Both Moses and Elijah had powerful encounters with God on the top of a mountain – it is appropriate that it is they who appear beside Jesus in the transfiguration account. Moses travelled up Mt Sinai to receive the Law from God in the form of the Ten Commandments. When Elijah was fleeing for his life from Queen Jezebel he fled to Mt Horeb. The word of the Lord came to Elijah and told him to stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord was about to pass by. Elijah experienced the Lord in the whisper of a gentle breeze.

Update from John Bradley

The Parish has recently received an update from John Bradley. John's time in Samoa has seen him unwell on a number of occasions, and challenged by a number of issues including housing and noise.

John has regretfully decided to complete his appointment in Samoa early and return home. This decision has not been taken easily or lightly, and only after exploring all available alternatives.

By the time this bulletin goes to press, John will have departed Samoa. He plans to spend some time with family in Sydney before returning back to Dungog.

We look forward to welcoming John back among us.

Fr Andrew

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

18th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 7 August

Tuesday 8 August

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross

Wednesday 9 August

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 10 August

Feast of St Lawrence

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 11 August

Memorial of St Clare

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (Years 3 & 4 students from St Joseph's attending)

Saturday 12 August

10.30am Parish Liturgical Conversations @ East Gresford

Sunday 13 August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm Psalm 96

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

2nd Reading 2 Peter 1:16-19

Acclamation Matthew 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass today (6 August). Please stay and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August: "We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives."

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



Have you thought?

Transfigured / Transformed

Jesus' transfiguration was a physical transformation that was able to be witnessed by his disciples. In our lives when we have many transforming moments but they are rarely as physically obvious to others as Jesus' transfiguration. Sometimes we fail to recognise a transformative event until well after the fact - sometimes years later. It might be nice if our clothes began to shine white whenever something significant and transformative was happening to us! It might help us to pay attention to the important and life-changing moments of our lives instead of letting them slip by!

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Tom Banister.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August: Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Jean Kenney, Shirley Wade, Allen Kearns, Tony Townsend, Molly Turner.

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.