



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 13 AUGUST 2023

19TH 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

Holy Day of Obligation

On Tuesday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is a *Holy Day of Obligation*. Masses will be celebrated in each of the churches of our parishes so parishioners can join in celebrating the Solemnity. Details are found in the *Parish Diary* on the back page.



A Pastoral Note...

I don't know about you, but I have often been mildly amused at some of the shenanigans that take place in places we often call 'Parliament'. The behaviour of some members of that august body often leaves much to be desired, even if it is 'entertaining' in the widest sense of that word.

One of the things that is often missing from that place is the possibility of members listening to each other, being far more focussed on making their particular point in whatever manner they wish to do so.

Listening, and by that I mean really engaging in being attentive to what is being said, is an artform that requires the one doing the listening to focus on what the person speaking is saying and not on using the time to prepare their next remarks. It's only when the speaker has finished speaking that it is possible to formulate a response, and sometimes this requires a pause, a silence if you will, before a response is possible.

And just as this is the case with human to human communication, so it is even more true when humans communicate with God.

Prayer, the act of communication between God and humanity, remains a two-way process. God speaks, we listen; we speak, God listens. And in between there is often the need for silence so that we can hear what God is saying before we are able to provide our response.

Prayer is not always about us saying things, but about us getting the balance between listening, truly listening, and speaking right.

Like our parliamentarians that required period of waiting before responding can be a difficult aspect of our spiritual life to embrace. But it remains a vital part of ensuring a rich and vibrant prayer life.

And on that note, I'm going to 'practice what I preach', and move from speaking (or writing in this case) into silence.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

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

Establishment of the Pastoral Council

With the closing of nominations for election to the Pastoral Council last Sunday, I can now advise that no election will be necessary.

Once I finalise the two appointed members from each parish, I will announce the membership of the Council in the Parish bulletin. I should be in a position to do that before I depart for annual leave.

A reminder that the Pastoral Council will take office on 1 October 2023.

Fr Andrew

Parish Liturgical Conversations

A repeat of the second of our "Liturgical Conversations" will take place 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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Separation

The image of Jesus still ashore while the disciples battled against strong winds and rising seas must have been an evocative one for the Matthean community. Like the disciples, they were acutely aware of their separation from Jesus. Unlike the disciples, they were separated by time and the raging storm that beset them was a tide of suspicion and persecution. At times they felt the strength and courage of Peter to step out of the boat and be Jesus in their world, but at other times they doubted their own abilities. It is a message for the Church of the day and the Church of today.

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.murpy@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

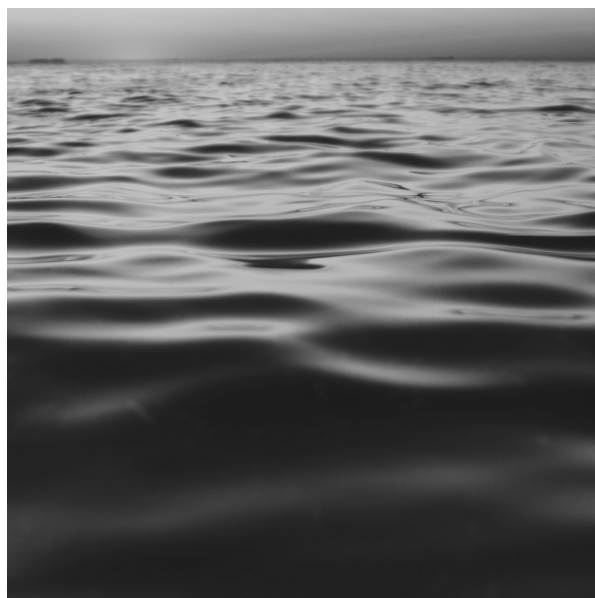
Rediscovering Joy—Dr Michele Connolly

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.



Make A Difference During August

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens offer more than just a meal. With the assistance of volunteers, CatholicCare has created a space where people can feel safe and enjoy the company of others and access other services if needed.

CatholicCare asks you to consider making a gift to their *Make a Difference Appeal* to assist in continuing to feed and connect people through CatholicCare's Community Kitchens and other non-funded programs.

CatholicCare's programs really do make a difference in the local community, but they cannot do this work without the generosity of the broader community.

A tax-deductible donation will go a long way.

Donating is easy and only takes a few simple steps. Visit www.mycause.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

19th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 14 August

Memorial of St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Tuesday 15 August

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation)

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (joined by students from St Joseph's School)

5.0pm Mass @ East Gresford

Wednesday 16 August

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

Thursday 17 August

9.30am **No Mass**—Fr Andrew in Newcastle for Clergy In-Service morning.

4pm Parish Liturgical Conversation @ Dungog Parish Hall.

Friday 18 August

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 19 August

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 20 August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

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.

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."

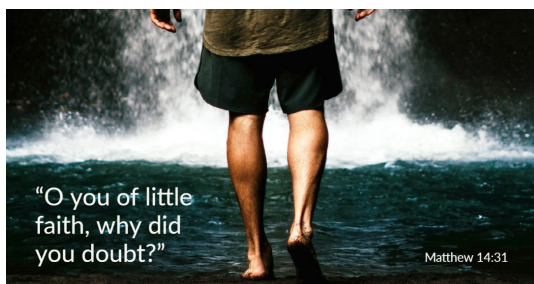
LIVING THE GOSPEL

Christian

What does it mean to describe oneself as a Christian today? A common understanding might be 'one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ'. Perhaps, based on the understanding of what it meant to be a disciple, we might better describe a Christian as one who learns from the teachings of Jesus and seeks to emulate the work of Jesus. That is, a Christian is someone who models their life on the example of Jesus and is the face of Jesus to others. That's a tougher job description than just turning up to church once a week or putting a bumper sticker on your car.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (20 August). Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.



In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

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.