



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 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

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).

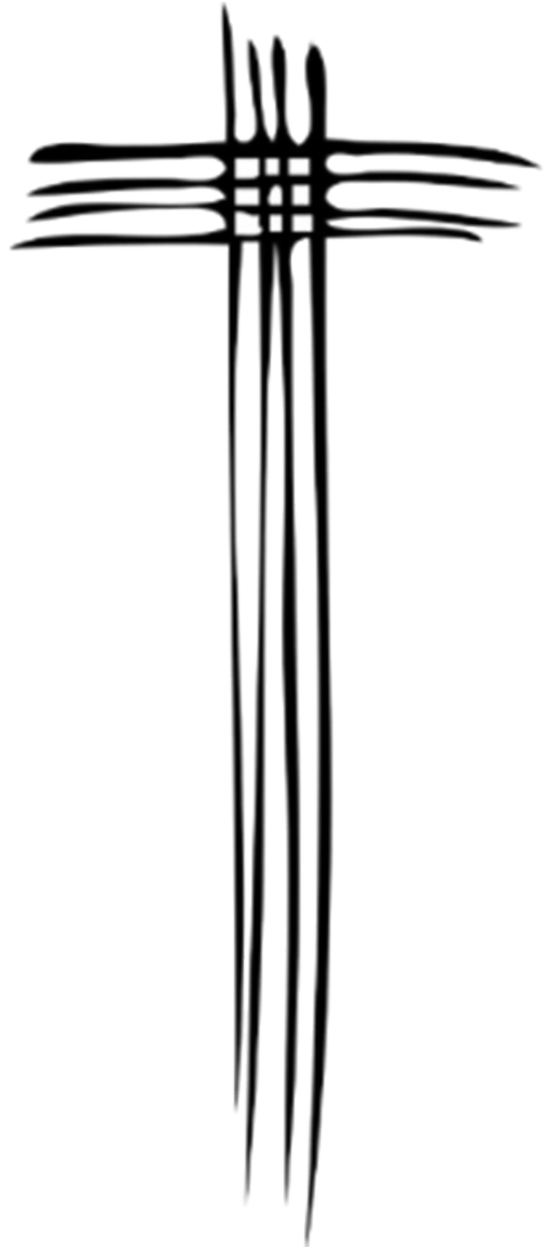
Parish School

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

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Welcome Fr Anil

We warmly welcome **Fr Anil Kuchipudi** to our parishes this weekend as he joins us to celebrate the weekend Masses during Fr Andrew's annual leave.

We thank Fr Anil for his generosity in making himself available.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In September: Annie & Brian Maurer, Peggy Brennan, Godfey Barry, Tony O'Hearn, Fr Brian Quillinan, Pat Byron, Marjory Neilson, Ivy Hinton, Arthur Sonter, Ron Neilson, Fr Peter Quirk, Tony & Mary Maurer, Kath Morrow, Frances Amy Young, Rowland Young and Dennis Melmouth, Dot Shurrey, Mary Moylan, Norm Barham, Eileen Godwin, Warren Trappel, Lachlan Tindall (Clarence Town), Brian Byron, Margaret Moule, John Melmeth, Beryl Cooper, Paul Evans.

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.

Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement

The 2023-2024 Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has been released.

Entitled *Listen, Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, the Statement calls "all the People of God to embrace a new engagement...which involves a commitment to listen to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers and to learn from them".

The Statement can be downloaded from our website by visiting bit.ly/3OMAKFn.

For those without internet access who may wish to obtain a copy, please contact the Parish Office who will happily print a copy for 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.

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.

To the People of God

Bishop Michael Kennedy wrote a letter to the People of God of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle reflecting on the importance of today's Perpetual Day of Remembrance. The text is available on the notice boards of our churches, on the website, and is reproduced below:

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you about the Perpetual Day of Remembrance only a few days after returning from our Diocesan World Youth Day (WYD) pilgrimage. The experience of WYD is a gift that I will continue to reflect on over the coming weeks. Primary amongst the gifts I am receiving is an awareness of the blessing young people are and bring to our Church, and a renewed hope for all we can become as we continue to journey together, building the Kingdom of God here and now.

Coming to reflect on the importance of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance immediately following my experience of WYD has sharpened my sense of the imperative for us to remember and pray to ensure that the abuse that devastated the lives of so many children and young people and their families never happens again.

Being new to the diocese I am looking towards my first experience of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, established throughout the diocese by my predecessor Bishop Bill Wright. This day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected. To further embed our remembrance in the life and prayer of the church, in 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* as a feast inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. This was explained in the [letter](#) accompanying the [decree](#).

It is my desire that we continue to mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our parishes – particularly on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday – our schools, our agencies, our communities, and households.

Some may find this remembering uncomfortable. Some may even prefer that we stop remembering. We are, however, the faithful people of God, and when one of us suffers, we all suffer. This means that we are called to stand with and pray for our brothers and sisters who are often unable to pray themselves. This is a necessary part of who we claim ourselves to be as the Church.

Remembering also helps to reignite hope. As Fr Richard Lennan, one of our own, reminded us in

one of his recent presentations in the Diocese:

- Hope builds faith, acknowledging that God holds us,
- Hope expresses itself in love, that nurtures the hope of others,
- Hope enables us to name reality, it is neither avoidance nor wishful thinking, and
- Hope enables us to face what is broken and engage with change.

In the spirit of that understanding of Christian hope, I urge us all to embrace our marking of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

Yours in that same hope,
Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

18 August 2023

Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy. (Is. 2:5)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter. (Is. 5:20)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress. (Is. 5:30)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness. (Is. 9:2)
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

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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 the Light of Your Love

God with us,
you have made us in your image,
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to live in the light of your
love.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

Where people are disempowered
may we shine the light of your justice.
Where there is privilege and prestige
may we shine the light of your humility.
Where there is dishonesty and denial
may we shine the light of your truth.
Where transparency is lacking, and agendas
are hidden,
may we shine the light of your integrity.
Where there is fear
may we shine the light of your courage.
Where there is judgement
may we shine the light of your compassion.
Where there is disrespect
may we shine the light of your love.
Where people feel silenced
may we shine the light of your word.
Where people feel excluded
may we shine the light of your acceptance.
Where there is sin
may we shine the light of your forgiveness.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

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The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 11 September

Tuesday 12 September

Wednesday 13 September

Memorial of St John Chrysostom

Thursday 14 September

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday 15 September

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday 16 September

Memorial of Sts Cornelius and Cyprian

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 17 September

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

Please note that today's liturgy for Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday will not be found in your personal missal. The texts of scripture and other components are determined by the decree of Bishop Bill Wright that established today's observance in the diocesan liturgical calendar.

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm Psalm 41
My soul is thirsting for the living God.

2nd Reading Romans 14:7-9

Acclamation Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine in the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:46-56

Memorial Acclamation

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

Commission to Shine the Light of Christ

To be included as a prelude to the final blessing.

Priest: Let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy.

All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)

Priest: Let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter.

All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)

Priest: Let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress.

All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)

Priest: Let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God.

All: And let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 9:2)

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September:

"We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance."

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (17 September). Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.