



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 8 OCTOBER 2023

27TH 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 Fr John

A warm welcome to Fr John Lovell, Rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, who has very generously agreed to celebrate our weekend Masses while Fr Andrew is at the Cathedral in his role as Master of Ceremonies.

Please make Fr John welcome.



Advent Program 2023

The Diocese has produced an Advent Program for Advent 2023 entitled *With Anticipation and Joy* for use by those in the parish who may wish to use it, either individually or as part of a group.

A copy of the resource can be found on our website (under the 'Resources') tab.

If parishioners are unable to download and print a copy of the resource themselves, please contact the Parish Office who are able to do that for you.

Service NSW Mobile Service Centre Visiting Clarence Town

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre will once again be visiting Clarence Town on **Wednesday 11 October** between 10am and 3pm.

The MSC will be parked at the School of Arts, 48 Grey Street.

The Synod Convenes...

On 4 October, the Universal phase of the 16th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops gathering entitled "For a Synodal Church. Communion, Participation, Mission" came together under the presidency of Pope Francis. This journey has been in process since October 2021, and this first session of the Universal phase represents the culmination of a long process of listening, consultation and conversation.



Although we won't be directly participating in the Synod session, we can be part of the process by praying with and for those gathered in Rome. The website for the Synod has resources available to help us. Visit www.synod.va for more details.

Sacraments of Initiation for Children

All the online modules are now available any for children wishing to complete their journey to full Christian Initiation. Enrolment into the process is as simple as filling out an online form available on the Parishes' website—visit bit.ly/3NuMAv7 for all the details.

For children who might not yet be baptised, or who were baptised in other church traditions, the journey is slightly different and will require some additional steps. The best place to start a conversation about this is by contacting Fr Andrew.

Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

ACU Public Lectures on Liturgy

In the lead up to the 60th anniversary of Vatican II's *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (it's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy dated 4 December 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present two exciting public lectures by international liturgical scholars:

1. Renowned liturgical scholar **Professor Teresa Berger** (Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School) will deliver a public lecture live via Zoom on **Monday 6 November 2023 at 10am** AEDT on the topic "Liturgy's Imagined Futures: Beyond Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy."

2. Acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian **Rev Professor John F. Baldovin SJ** (Boston College) will deliver a FREE public lecture live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on **Sunday 3 December 2023 at 5pm** AEDT on the topic "A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on." Fr Baldovin's public lecture will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Further information and registration details for both of these unique and valuable events, and a flyer if desired, can be found at the following link: bit.ly/3Q05IXI.

The Centre for Liturgy looks forward to welcoming those attending these very special events marking this important milestone anniversary.

For more information on the events, please contact CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au.

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.

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.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan had a major impact on philosophy and theology last century. Sometimes his language was so complex we had to buy a companion book to help us read the original work! Surprisingly, however, his most important insights were very simple and expressed in very simple language. One of them was that we regularly have 'ah-ha' moments, where we get an insight into God, the world or ourselves. These moments make sense of things we have previously only seen as problems.

Matthew's Gospel is filled with 'ah-ha' moments. Written for a generally Jewish audience it reflects on Jesus in light of the history of Israel, the Hebrew Scriptures and the expectations of the Messiah. Jesus was for Matthew's community, and is for us, the 'ah-ha' in world history. By Matthew reflecting on his life, death and resurrection, things he had previously only wondered about now made sense.

The phrase 'the stone rejected by the builders' originally referred to Israel. In Psalm 118 and, more generally, in the Book of Psalms, the trials and defeats of Israel are seen to be tests of strength, love and endurance. Despite everything Israel has gone through, the people continue to sing of God's fidelity to them and what marvels God has done before their eyes, making them into a more faith-filled people.

Matthew, however, reflects on what happened to Jesus at the hands of the Chief Priests, Scribes and Romans. In a great 'ah-ha' moment he sees that it is Jesus, not Israel, who is the stone rejected by the builders which has now become the key building block of a new edifice.

Doing exactly the same as Matthew does with this passage, we can apply it to our own lives as well. There are often facets of our personality or character of which we are ashamed or about which we despair. From gossip to greed, past hurts to anger, sexuality to broken relationships, we can often get discouraged at how un-together our Christian life is.

Even though we have worked hard to overcome our worst traits, we often think nothing good will ever come of them. In such a context we need to hear today's Gospel, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

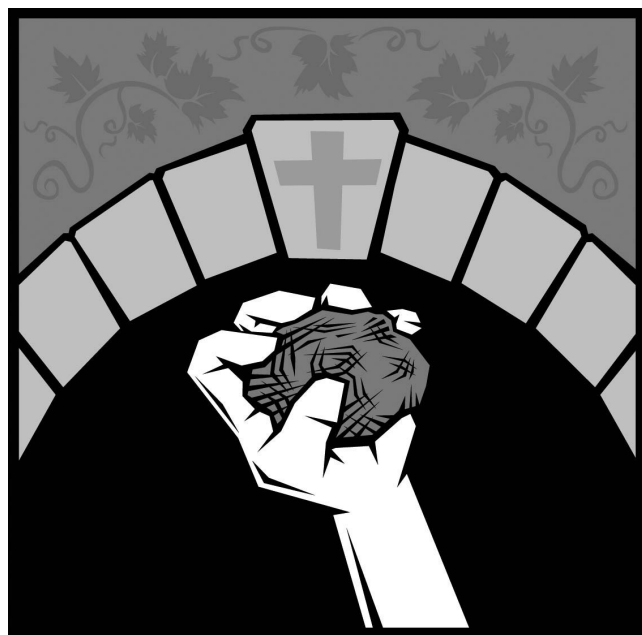
The parts of our character we most despise could be the most marvellous moments of amazing grace. Nothing is irredeemable to God; nothing has gone too far or become too entrenched. In the Christian life there is no room for shame, only for repentance and starting over. Looking at

things we have thought of as only being problems provides us with the greatest potential for 'ah-ha' moments, where the healing and love of Christ enables us to turn our lives around, to demolish all the negative and defeatist self-talk in which we can indulge and rebuild ourselves with Christ, the master builder.

Once we get into the habit of doing this, it's amazing how many 'ah-ha' moments we have as our history ceases to be a problem to be overcome but turns into a challenge to be harnessed for the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.



Engaging Your Faith Online Lecture Series

The Catholic Theological College (located in Melbourne) is once again offering a series of online lectures across October and November.

These lectures are ideal for anyone wishing to explore the offerings of CTC for personal, theological and spiritual development. Each lecture stands alone, so you can attend one or more as you feel the need.

The cost for each lecture is \$25, and further information can be found by visiting CTC's website at bit.ly/451aeEU. Booking and payment, can be made by visiting bit.ly/3tb1YF5.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

27th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 9 October

Tuesday 10 October

Wednesday 11 October

10am Funeral for Peter Rooke @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 12 October

9.30am **No Mass** @ East Gresford (because..)

11.30am Funeral for Aileen Gornall @
Clarence Town

Friday 13 October

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 14 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 15 October

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm Psalm 79

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

2nd Reading Philippians 4:6-9

Acclamation Cf John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

Memorial Acclamation

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (15 October). Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Different View – Using scripture to justify hatred

This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting Jews.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October:

"We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world."

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important.

Our Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care.

We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Peter Rooke, Aileen Gornall, Peter Byron, Heather Dawn Byron.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In October: Bert Clark, Jaimie Richardon, Bonnie Hulbert, Bruce Everding, Ned Garland, Mark Bannister, Michael Wills, Fred Dickerson, Scott Bowman, Irma Iacono, Paul Brockwell, Brian Doyle, Maria Kealy, Raymond & Phyllis MacKay, Peter James McMullen, Mary Isabelle Preece, Margaret Banister, Paul Bryon, Doris Murray, Carl Nolan, Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlan, Thelma Moroney

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, Matthew Kerr.