



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 29 OCTOBER 2023

30TH 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

A Pastoral Note...

During the week some parishioners received a text message from "me" telling them that I was in a meeting but needed a favour, and that favour was to send an amount of money via Apple gift cards to them.

This is a well known scam, one that pops its head up from time to time. Fr Greg Barker has recently experienced a similar thing in his parish, and I know that the late Bishop Bill's name was also used—though thankfully it was after his death so it was more easily spotted.

Please know that I will never seek money from any one via text message or email. And I will never expect Apple gift cards (or similar) to be the currency used for such things.

Clergy in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are the beneficiaries of a very good remuneration arrangement which, while not extravagant, allows them to enjoy all the things they might wish to enjoy. Carefully managed, the clergy of our diocese should never need to seek additional funds from parishioners in such a manner.

Please be careful in responding to text messages or emails from "me". If it doesn't 'smell' right then it probably isn't—and call me if you're unsure. On those occasions that I don't respond immediately, that doesn't give credence to the scammers tactics.

If you receive text messages or emails from me of this sort, report them to the appropriate authority immediately. If you have already sent funds, please speak with your bank or other financial institution.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

All Saints & All Souls Day

Wednesday this week marks All Saints Day and is closely followed by All Souls Day on Thursday. To mark this significant days, Masses will be celebrated as follows:

For All Saints Day:

Tuesday	5.30pm	East Gresford
Wednesday	9.30am	Dungog (with students from the school)
	5.30pm	Clarence Town

For All Souls Day:

Thursday	9.30am	East Gresford
	5.30pm	Dungog

Claim the Date—Dungog Christmas Lunch

Yes, it's getting close to that time of year again.

This year's Dungog Parish Christmas Lunch will take place on Sunday 26 November at 12pm. The cost will be \$15.

Add the date to your diary now!

Saturday Evening Mass at East Gresford

For those who regularly attend Mass on Saturday evening at East Gresford, the "problem" of the sun is well known.

When I arrived, during the coolness of winter, Mass at 5.30pm seemed a wonderful and logical time, and, not being a fan of changing Mass times on a seasonal basis, I was determined to keep it at 5.30pm all year round.

A warmer spring in 2023 has revealed that I was wrong in thinking such things, so I'd like to apologise to the good people of East Gresford and ask them:

Would you like to a) have Mass at 5.30pm all year round, b) have Mass at 6.30pm during daylight saving time, or c) move the Mass permanently to 6pm?

Talk among yourselves and come to agreement, and let me know at Mass on Saturday 4 November. If there is to be a change, we can work out a changeover date.

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.

World Mission Sunday Appeal

For those who are still wishing to do so, appeal envelopes are still available in our churches this weekend.

The appeal will close next Sunday.

Let's continue to pray for the mission of the Church—to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Peace in the Holy Land

We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, between Israel and Palestine. We pray for an end to all violence, and the establishment of true peace based on the presence of true justice for all people who live in the Holy Land.

Masses For Deceased In November

Once again we will be celebrating a Mass in each of our local worshipping communities to remember those parishioners who have died, and especially those who have died in the past year.

I would be grateful if local parishioners at each locality could let me know their preferred day and time for these celebrations so that they can be included in the bulletin next weekend.

Although in the past these Masses have at times been celebrated at the local cemeteries, not all those whom we might wish to remember are buried there. Accordingly, these Masses will take place in our church buildings instead.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Quoting scripture

The question and response that we see in this gospel passage was a common form of scholarly debate in the Jewish tradition. The Pharisees ask Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus responds by directly quoting the commandment from the ancient scriptures. His reply, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,' comes directly from Deuteronomy 6:4. Further, Jesus' follow up, 'you must love your neighbour as yourself,' comes from Leviticus 19:18. Deuteronomy and Leviticus are two of the first five books of the Bible that make up the Jewish Torah, or Law.

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.

Christian Meditation

The Contemplative Pathway: Where is Meditation Leading Us?

John Carroll will explore the benefits of meditators always trying to go into deeper silence. The day will also be a session on practical ideas for how to incorporate meditation into a busy life.

When: Saturday, 11 November, 9am-12pm

Where: St James' School Hall

Vista Parade, Kotara

Cost: \$10, including morning tea.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Anne Cuskelly (phone 0407 436 808 or email manneecuskelly@hotmail.com).

Paterson Service of Remembrance

The Anglican Parish of Gresford Paterson is holding a Service of Remembrance to remember loved ones who have died, particularly in the last few years.

The Service will take place at St Paul's Anglican Church, Paterson on **Thursday 2 November** and will commence at **6pm**. All are welcome.

Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

"This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict," Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia said.

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

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.



Position Vacant—Chaplain—John Hunter Hospital

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is looking to appoint a Catholic Hospital Chaplain to John Hunter Hospital. The purpose of this position is to provide Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care services to the patients, their families, and staff at the John Hunter Hospital and other health facilities that exist on that site. The Catholic Chaplain provides spiritual and pastoral care, and emotional support on behalf of the faith community.

For more information about this position, please go to the Careers section on the diocesan website (www.mn.catholic.org/about/careers/positions/) or contact Teresa Brierley on 49791157. Applications close 7 November.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

30th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 30 October

Tuesday 31 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Wednesday 1 November

Solemnity of All Saints

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (with students from St Joseph's joining us)

5.30pm Mass @ Clarence Town

Thursday 2 November

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Friday 3 November

No Mass Fr Andrew attending to diocesan commitments.

Saturday 4 November

Memorial of St Charles Borromeo

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 5 November

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm Psalm 17
I love you, Lord, my strength.

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

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 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."

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass on 5 November. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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:

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, Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Matthew Kerr, Anne Newman.