



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 5 NOVEMBER 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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...

One of the phrases I often hear, particularly in my work as a liturgist, that is all but guaranteed to drive me crazy is "Oh, but Father, we've always done it that way". For me, it's almost as bad as dragging fingernails down a blackboard!

Notwithstanding that in the liturgical field, we actually haven't always done it that way, the liturgical reforms of Vatican II are only just about to turn 60, the mindset represented by such an approach indicates a very inward looking way of understanding both who we are called to be as Church and what we are supposed to be about as Church.

Customs and traditions certainly have their place in human life. Without them we can become unmoored from those things that are important to us. But customs and traditions are not so set in stone as to be unchanging for all time. They constantly need to be restated in ways that are meaningful for the here and now, for this time and place.

Pope Francis, in his very first encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel") was at pains to point out such an attitude—"We always done it this way"—can get in the way of the primary and fundamental task that the Church, i.e., all of us, are supposed to be about, the task of making the Gospel of Jesus Christ—his life, death and resurrection—known into the modern age that we live in *now*.

This is always going to be a challenge, however, and one that at times appear all but impossible. The challenge of making the Gospel accessible in the light of new conditions and new questions can be a daunting one, but it remains the same Gospel, the same eternal source of salvation, though it might not immediately seem to be

“what we've always done”. This eternal nature of the Gospel is why we never speak of making the Gospel 'relevant' to the modern world, but rather of making it 'accessible' to the modern world.

Many years ago, at a lecture I attended, Fr Richard Lennan, one of our own from the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, challenged his audience to see “tradition” not as a noun (and therefore something set in stone for all time) but as a verb. To “tradition” something in that context is to undertake the monumental task of ensuring that we are able to pass on the fundamental message of the Gospel into new contexts, in the face of new questions, and in the light of new understandings.

That task, which is our task, is exceedingly difficult if our response to new situations is “but we've always done it this way”.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew



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.

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.

Summer Hill	Sunday 12 November 11.30am
Clarence Town	Thursday 16 November 5.30pm
Dungog	Wednesday 22 November 5.30pm
East Gresford	Saturday 25 November 5.30pm

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

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass today (5 November). Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 19 November. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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!

World Mission Sunday Appeal

This year's appeal will close today. Please return any completed envelopes on one of the collection baskets this weekend.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Contrasts

Jesus' description of the Pharisees' behaviour offers a stark contrast to his own way of bringing about the Kingdom of God. By their actions, the Pharisees place burdens on the shoulders of others – burdens of guilt, shame, duty and punishment. Throughout his ministry, Jesus acted to lift such burdens from the shoulders of the downtrodden and marginalised. Jesus accuses the Pharisees of being motivated by drawing attention to themselves – the way they dress, the way they like to be addressed, even where they sit in the synagogues. In contrast, Jesus' ministry was typified by his humility and focus on others.

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.

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).

Peace in the Holy Land & Other Place

We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, between Israel and Palestine, and other places in the world where war and violence reign.

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.

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.

The Sacraments of Penance & Anointing

The Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) and the Anointing of the Sick is always available for those wishing to celebrate it by contacting Fr Andrew.

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)

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 6 November

Tuesday 7 November

Wednesday 8 November

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 9 November

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 10 November

Memorial of St Leo the Great

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 11 November

Memorial of St Martin of Tours

Sunday 12 November

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill



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 Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In November: Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, and all the faithful departed.

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.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Malachi 1:14—2:2, 8-10

Psalm Psalm 130

In you, O Lord, I have found my peace.

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

Acclamation Matthew 23:9,10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;

you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ!

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 23:1-12

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and Resurrection

you have set free..

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November:

"We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit."

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Laying down the Law

Throughout Matthew's gospel Jesus is portrayed as the new law-giver, the new Moses. The five-part structure of the gospel reflects the five books of law that make up the Torah. This week's gospel is the beginning of an extended passage of criticism against the Pharisees (all of Ch 23). The sustained criticism is about how the Pharisees have actually 'got in the way' and made it more difficult for people to come to know God. Jesus, as the new law-giver, tells the people to put aside the distractions of the Pharisees and to recognise that God alone is the source of what is right and wrong; that the Christ is the only teacher.