



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 26 NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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).

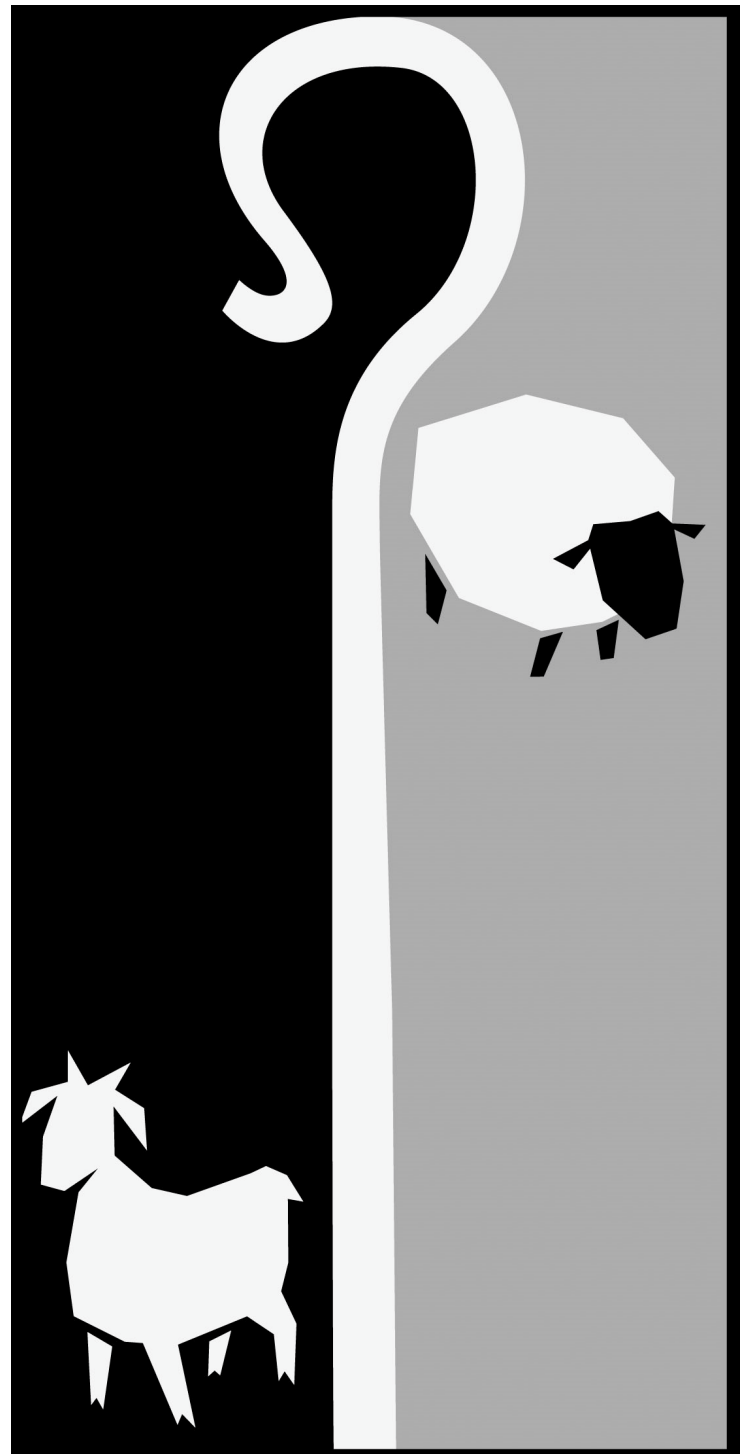
Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

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A Pastoral Note...

I know it's only the end of November, but I have already begun to look at my diary for next year, pencilling in dates for regular commitments that I have, adding other events that I will be participating in—adding my holiday dates—and generally reviewing what needs to be done.

As a result, I am also trying to rationalise those days when commitments take me out of the parish, hoping that I can minimise them by 'bulking up' such days with multiple commitments that might otherwise be spread over a few days. I'm also trying to ensure that I am in the parish on the days when Kerry is in the office so together we can attend to administrative matters that need attending to.

Trying to streamline my diary—an ongoing task that never seems to end—might also mean that I review what commitments I have more broadly and so consider whether I continue with them (at least the ones that I have any control over).

So far, it appears my heaviest days are Wednesdays (most of the day) and Thursday afternoons/evenings. In light of that, I'm wondering if Dungog parishioners would be amenable to changing the midweek 5.30pm Mass from Wednesday evening to Tuesday evening. That would permit less cancellations of that midweek Mass as I hope Tuesdays are going to be days when I am in town.

Admittedly, there are going to be occasions when I may have to cancel a weekday Mass, either at Dungog or East Gresford, but part of looking at my diary now is to put things in place to minimise that.

So if Dungog parishioners in particular could talk among yourselves about the proposed move I've outlined, and get back to me, we can look at changing that towards the end of January 2024. I am most grateful for your consideration.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

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.

Advanced Notice

I have received an invitation to participate in a Symposium celebrating the 60th anniversary of Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* in Melbourne starting late next Sunday, 3 December.

I will be out of the parishes from the afternoon of 3 December until the afternoon of Wednesday 6 December while I attend this wonderful opportunity.

I will be contactable via my mobile phone and will be regularly checking emails, though I may be slow in responding.

The public lecture advertised elsewhere in the bulletin is part of this symposium; and I commend it to your attention if you are so interested.

Fr Andrew

Christian Initiation This Week

We welcome **Cohen Atkins**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion during the 9.30am Mass at St Mary's on Sunday.

Dungog Christmas Lunch

The Dungog Christmas Lunch takes place today (26 November) in the Parish Hall, commencing at 12pm.

Dungog Christmas Hamper Raffle

A basket has been placed at the rear of the Dungog & Clarence Town churches where donations towards this year's Christmas Hamper Raffle can be placed.

Your generosity in contributing to this endeavour is gratefully received.

Service NSW Returning to Clarence Town

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre will be in Clarence Town once again on **Wednesday 20 December** from **10am** until **2pm**.

You'll find the Centre parked at 48 Grey Street.

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.

2024 Columban Calendars

Columban calendars for 2024 are now available at the cost of \$10 each. If you would like one (or more), please see Lyn Barham.

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.

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

A New Year Begins

Next Sunday, 5 December, sees a change in our current Liturgical Year. From next week, our Sunday readings will be taken from Year B (which is sometimes referred to as the Year of Mark), while our weekday readings will be taken from Year II.

Like New Year's Eve, the beginning of a new liturgical year can also be a time for resolutions and renewing our practices, particularly in the sphere of how we approach and how we celebrate the Church's liturgy.

What might you like to renew as we embrace a new liturgical year?

ACU Public Lecture 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 an exciting (and FREE) public lecture by acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian **Rev Professor John F. Baldovin SJ** (Boston College).

The lecture will take place 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 this unique and valuable event, and a flyer if desired, can be found at the following link: bit.ly/3Q05IXI.

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

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.

Masses For Deceased In November

The last of this year's celebrations across the month of November where we remember those parishioners who have died, especially those who have died in the past year, will take place at **East Gresford** on Saturday 25 November during the usual 5.30pm Mass.



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.

gospel focus

The Final Judgment

Often referred to as 'The Final Judgment', this gospel presents an understanding of judgment and punishment that reflects the theology and culture of the first century. It is an image that has continued to dominate Christian art and theology for most of its history: the idea of God sitting in judgment on the final day and weighing up each individual's actions. It is often applied very literally and it is a dominant image of God represented in the media – TV sit-coms and movies often draw on the image. It is a literalist image of God that needs to be challenged. We must remember that the focus of the gospel passage is on the call to action for justice.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Last Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 27 November

Tuesday 28 November

Wednesday 29 November

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 30 November

Feast of St Andrew

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 1st December

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 2 December

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 3 December

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Psalm Psalm 22

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Acclamation Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Memorial Acclamation

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

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."

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass on Sunday 3 December. Please bring a plate to share and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.



SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

This week's gospel passage comes as the third in a sequence of passages that make up Matthew Chapter 25. The chapter addresses the gospel's intended audience who were caught in a time of uncertainty. Many had expected the promised return of the Lord within their lifetime and had seen the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE as a sign that the end of days was approaching. The three gospel passages speak of continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom and the need to act in a way that works to bring about the reign of God in the world.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Norma Kingston.

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, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Matthew Kerr, Anne Newman, Graham McCarthy.