



# 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 24 DECEMBER 2023

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

#### 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](mailto:dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au)

W: [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dungog.catholic.edu.au)

#### Christmas Mass Times

With Christmas Day falling on a Monday in 2023, it is worth reminding everyone that we are obliged to celebrate Mass twice over two days, once for Sunday 24 December (the 4th Sunday of Advent) and once for Monday 25 December (Christmas Day).

Mass for Christmas Day will be celebrated as follows:

Christmas Eve	6pm	East Gresford
Christmas Day	8am	Clarence Town
	10am	Dungog

#### Christmas Raffle

A very big 'thank you' to all who contributed to this year's Christmas raffle; your generous support via donations of food items allowed for 14 prizes this year—a great number—all of which were happily received by the lucky winners.

Through the combination of ticket sales and donations of goods, this year's raffle raised an incredible \$555.00.

Thanks to every one who contributed to the success.

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.

**The Parish Diary** (for the week ahead)  
*The Solemnity of Christmas & Octave*

Monday 25 December

*The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*

8am Christmas Mass @ Clarence Town

10am Christmas Mass @ Dungog

Tuesday 26 December

*Feast of St Stephen*

Wednesday 27 December

*Feast of St John*

Thursday 28 December

*Feast of the Holy Innocents*

Friday 29 December

*5th Day of the Christmas Octave*

Saturday 30 December

*6th Day of the Christmas Octave*

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 31 December

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

**Today's Liturgy:**

**1st Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

**Psalm** Psalm 88

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**2nd Reading** Romans 16:25-27

**Acclamation** Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 1:26-38

**Memorial Acclamation**

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,

and profess your Resurrection

until you come again.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:**

*"We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation."*

**Masses This Week**

Please be aware that there will be no weekday Masses this coming week. Our usual schedule will resume after New Year.

**Mass on New Year's Day**

To mark the beginning of † 2024, and to celebrate the Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Mass will be celebrated at **9.30am on Monday 1 January 2024** at **Dungog**.

**Parish Office Closure**

Please be aware that the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Our phones and email will be monitored during this time and responded to as necessary.

**In Your Charity, Please Pray for:**

**Those Who Have Died:** Christine Brosie.

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In December:** Katie Rumbel, Elizabeth Holstein, Keith Schumaker, Margaret Egan, Ella Maher, Alan Robertson, Christine Knight, Margaret Miners, Mollie Smith, George Maurer, Mervyn Trappel, Paul Murphy, Rowland Young, Catherine Reid, Brian Smith, Thora Tindall, Margaret Egan, Valma Osmond, Nancy Dickson, Narelle Ritter, Anne Faber.

**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, Ella Rusak, Anne Newman, Graham McCarthy, Pam Edwards, .Keith Edwards, Otilie Sheens.



**HAVE YOU  
thought?**

**What about Joseph?**

*Luke's account of the Annunciation (and indeed much of the infancy narrative) focuses its attention on Mary. But what of Joseph? How does he react to the news that his betrothed wife is pregnant? By Jewish Law and tradition, Mary could well have been stoned to death if Joseph had denounced her. Even if Joseph allowed people to think that he was the father of her child, this would have caused an enormous scandal – a breach of the sanctity of the betrothal vow. However, foreshadowing the compassion of Jesus himself, Joseph acts purely out of compassion and continues with his marriage to Mary.*