



# Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Including **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.

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

### 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 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)



## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

The week before the Epiphany

Monday 1 January

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Tuesday 2 January

Memorial of Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday 3 January

Wednesday before the Epiphany

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 4 January

Thursday before the Epiphany

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 5 January

Friday before the Epiphany

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 6 January

Saturday before the Epiphany

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 7 January

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

**Psalm** Psalm 104

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**2nd Reading** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

**Acclamation** Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 2:22-40

**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."*



## 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.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Ritual

*The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.*

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** Peter McGinty.

**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.