



# Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

**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.

## 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

### 3 MARCH 2024

#### Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)  
Deacon Solomon Okovido (*In Residence*)  
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)

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

#### Office Hours

Tuesdays 10am-2pm  
Fridays 10am-1pm

#### Other Contacts

Clarence Town Val Preece  
0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or  
email [vip\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:vip_1@bigpond.com)

Gresford Faith Banister  
0427 536 248

#### 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)

**Parish Bulletin** is published each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website which is updated weekly.

**Parish Website** is updated regularly with copies of the bulletin and other information, and is found at [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au).

**Safeguarding Promotion** For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew.

#### Welcome Fr Peter

We welcome Fr Peter Street who has generously agreed to celebrate the 5.30pm Mass at East Gresford this weekend while I attend to another commitment. Please make Fr Peter welcome.

#### A Pastoral Note...

My thanks to those who attended the Parish meeting last Saturday to determine the changes to the weekday Mass schedule, particularly for Dungog. I believe that the outcome of that meeting is a good outcome and will assist in ensuring my increasing work load *outside* the Parish does not take a long-term toll.

Starting on Monday 1 April (Easter Monday), the weekday Mass schedule for the two parishes will be:

Tuesday	8.30am	Dungog
Thursday	9.30am	East Gresford

To these will be added the Anointing Mass at Lara Aged Care on the First Friday of each month, and the occasional School Mass or Liturgy on a Friday morning at Dungog.

When a significant feast day or day of obligation comes around, a special timetable will be put in place, but these will be exceptions rather than the norm.

As part of the conversation about changing the weekday Mass schedule, a suggestion has been made that the Parishes investigate a more relaxed 'spirituality the pub' type of experience in Dungog.

The purpose of such a type of event would be to allow the opportunity for anyone and everyone—including parishioners—to explore their spiritual health, to have the opportunity to ask the kind of questions they've always wanted to ask (there's no guarantee that answers will be immediately available), and to reach out in a less formal setting to those who might be seeking

"something" (for want of a better phrase).

We will certainly explore this possibility, and I'd love to hear from anyone who would be prepared to be part of the organising group that does so—many hands make light work! We will aim to get this 'up and running' as soon as practicable, but I am thinking that at this point it may be an after-Easter start.

Again, my thanks to those who attended the meeting and who made such wonderful suggestions.

Have a blessed week...

*Fr Andrew*

### **The Bishop Is Coming!**

Bishop Michael will be visiting our two parishes across the weekend of 27 & 28 April.

Bishop Michael will be celebrating the three parish Masses as an opportunity to 'meet & greet' parishioners.

I'd be very grateful if we could offer him the opportunity for a 'cuppa' or something similar after each of the Masses so Bishop Michael has an informal opportunity to get to know us. So thinking caps on!

### **Coming Soon—Confirmation!**

The first celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for 2024 will take place on **Thursday, 18 April** for those candidates who enrolled in the journey last year.

This celebration is not just for the candidates and their families but is one for all the parish community. It would be wonderful to have the church full as we celebrate this significant moment in the life of the children of our parish.

### **Christian Initiation and Confirmation Review**

You are invited to take part in a review of the Ministry of Christian Initiation and a reflection on the celebration of Confirmation.

The review has been structured so that all parish ministers, parents, parishioners, sponsors and others can take part. To find out more, go to [bit.ly/497Y1RA](http://bit.ly/497Y1RA).

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford acknowledge the Gringai clan of the Worimi people and their deep and abiding attachment to the land on which we live and work.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage and beliefs, pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

### **Children's Sacramental Initiation 2024**

Children wishing to complete their journey to full Christian Initiation are now able to begin that journey for 2024.

All the information required—including the online enrolment form—can be found on our website at [bit.ly/3NuMAv7](http://bit.ly/3NuMAv7).

The celebration of Confirmation for this cohort will take place during October 2024, with the precise date to be communicated once available.

For children who might not yet be baptised, or who were baptised in other church traditions, the journey is slightly different and will require some additional steps. The best place to start a conversation about this is by contacting Fr Andrew.

Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

### **Dungog Lenten Group**

Mark Wilson will facilitate a Lenten Group gathering in Dungog during Lent. We extend our thanks to Mark for his generosity in coordinating and facilitating this opportunity.

The group will meet on the **Tuesdays of Lent** (from 20 February) in St Mary's, Dungog. Each meeting will commence at **7pm** and will conclude with the Stations of the Cross.

### **Chrism Mass 2024**

Each year during Holy Week all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy for the Chrism Mass. Here we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that will be used for ministry during the year.

Join the diocesan community in our Cathedral on Tuesday 26 March commencing at 7pm. Read more about the Chrism Mass at [bit.ly/3SM7Qxu](http://bit.ly/3SM7Qxu).

Any parishioners who plan on attending and would like to collect the oils for their community should let Fr Andrew know.

### **Pastoral Ministries & RE & Spirituality Review**

Bishop Michael has written to the Diocesan Community providing an update on the unfolding implementation of the Review of two diocesan teams—Pastoral Ministries & the RE & Spirituality teams.

Copies of the letter from Bishop Michael can be found on the noticeboards of our churches, and also on the 'Resources' tab of our website.

The link for feedback mentioned in Bishop Michael's letter can be found at [bit.ly/48vjzqj](http://bit.ly/48vjzqj).

## Opportunities Outside The Parish

### Art and Spirituality Workshop

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Thursday 14 March (9am-3pm) at Kilaben Bay Community Centre. The cost is \$25 per person. Please register at [bit.ly/48atjG2](http://bit.ly/48atjG2).

### Way of the Cross

Our Diocese is blessed with rich diversity. This year's Ecumenical Way of the Cross, held on the 5th Sunday of Lent, invites us into a multicultural journey of remembrance. As we relive the story of Jesus' Passion, we recall the stories that have brought us together. This event is a celebrated gathering of our wider community and one not to be missed.

Sunday 17 March, 3pm (you are invited to gather from 2pm) at St Joseph's Toronto Church, 140 Wangi Road, Toronto.

### To Witness and To Accompany with Christian Hope

The Diocese is holding three workshops with Fr Kevin McGovern, a Christian ethicist and former director of Melbourne's Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics. The workshop will focus on accompanying those whom we care for that may be critically ill or at a terminal phase of their

life.

Two sessions are available: **Wednesday 20 March, 2pm-4pm and 6.30pm and 8.30pm** for staff and volunteers in parishes and staff from Catholic health and aged care providers, and **Thursday 21 March, 9.30am-12.30pm** for diocesan leadership, CatholicCare, Principals and staff as well as medical and aged care staff.

Register at [bit.ly/3UTdoZO](http://bit.ly/3UTdoZO) or phone 02 4979 1329.

# Repent!

### Draft Easter Timetable

The timetable below is a DRAFT for which I seek feedback and comment, ready to be submitted to the diocesan office by **Tuesday 5 March**.

#### Holy Thursday

Evening Mass 7pm Dungog

#### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 10am Dungog  
East Gresford  
Clarence Town  
Solemn Celebration 3pm Dungog

#### Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 8pm Dungog

#### Easter Sunday

Sunday Mass 8am Clarence Town  
10am East Gresford

Your thoughts and comments would be very much appreciated.

Fr Andrew



## Third Sunday of Lent 2 & 3 March



Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for **Leaia** and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

3rd Week of Lent

Monday 4 March

Tuesday 5 March

Wednesday 6 March

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 7 March

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 8 March

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 9 March

Sunday 10 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Exodus 20:1-17

**Psalm** Psalm 18

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**2nd Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

**Acclamation** John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

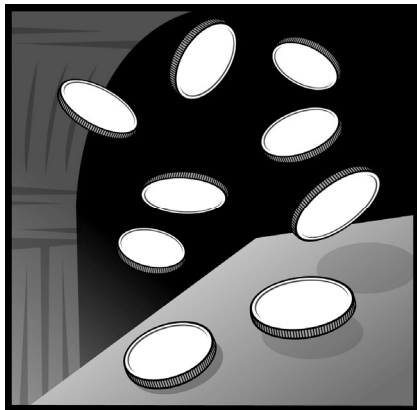
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel** John 2:13-25

**Memorial Acclamation**

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

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March:** "Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive."



## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** Ella Rusak.

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In March:**

Gordon Smith, Dan Harrison, Linda Gleeson, Vincent Smith, Eileen Lane, Marie Williams, Gwen Richards, Alexander Loudon, Claude McGinty, Herb Trappel, Allan Turner, Arthur Preece, Thelma Lowe, Joyce Copus, Leo Maher, Matthew Harding, Vincent Lane, Vince Banister, Gerry Gehrig, Terry Johnson.

**Those Who Are Sick:** Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Anne Newman, Graham McCarthy, Keith Edwards, Otilie Sheens, Anton Banister.

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass TODAY (3 March). Please stay and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

## Safeguarding Audit Results

As you may know, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle was the subject of an external audit in late 2023 to measure our compliance against the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and, more importantly, an independent assessment of the Diocese's inculturation of a safeguarding ethos in all our ministries, provision of services and other activities.

The outcome and report from that audit were released today, and the Diocese has achieved an outstanding result of 98% of safeguarding indicators of compliance having been assessed as being "Developed and Embedded" or "Developed".

Some printed copies of the Summary Report are available in our churches this weekend, and a copy of the letter from Bishop Michael can be on the church noticeboards.

The Summary Report and Bishop Michael's letter can also be found on the 'Resources' page of our website, while the full audit report can be found on the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd website by visiting [bit.ly/42ZqxCS](https://bit.ly/42ZqxCS).

This is a truly wonderful result and is recognition of the work of so many people across the breadth of the diocesan community. The challenge now is to continue this work into the future.