



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.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B 10 MARCH 2024

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Parish School

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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.

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



Easter Timetable

<u>Holy Thursday</u>		
Evening Mass	7pm	Dungog
<u>Good Friday</u>		
Stations of the Cross	10am	Dungog East Gresford Clarence Town
Solemn Celebration	3pm	Dungog
<u>Holy Saturday</u>		
Easter Vigil	8pm	Dungog
<u>Easter Sunday</u>		
Sunday Mass	8am 10am	Clarence Town East Gresford

Celebrating St Patrick's

This year, the Solemnity of St Patrick is transferred to Monday 18 March because of the clash with the 5th Sunday of Lent (which ranks higher).

The day is an important day for us because it is the title feast of the church at Clarence Town.

Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's, Clarence Town at 5.30pm on Monday 18 March, and will be followed by light refreshments in the grounds. All are welcome to attend, and you are invited to bring a plate to share.

Cancellation of Parish Meeting

The previous advertised Parish Meeting to discuss the continuation of Planned Giving on Saturday 23 March is cancelled.

It would appear that I have jumped the gun as there is a diocesan project underway regarding parish finances that needs to be finalised first. So Planned Giving—and the envelopes—will continue for at least one more year!

Fr Andrew

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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!

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.

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

Repent!

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.

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.

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 or phone 02 4979 1329.

'Women of the Well' Weekend Retreat

Join us at our next 'Women of the Well' Weekend Retreat to rest, relax, release, and reconnect at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Kincumber from Friday 19 April to Sunday 21 April 2024.

In partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph, a one-off subsidised rate of \$125. If you are returning participant the full cost of the retreat is \$250—if cost as a barrier, please contact the organisers.

Bookings need to be confirmed by 22 March.

Visit www.womenofthewell.com.au to find out more.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 9 & 10 March



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

4th Week of Lent

Monday 11 March

Tuesday 12 March

10.30am Funeral for Philip Gippel @ Dungog

Wednesday 13 March

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 14 March

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 15 March

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 16 March

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 17 March

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Baptisms This Week

We welcome, **Malakai & Spencer Rimoni**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate their Baptisms next Saturday at 10am in St Patrick's, Clarence Town.

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Ella Rusak, Philip Gippel.

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.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm Psalm 136

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

2nd Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

Acclamation John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 3:14-21

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."

gospel focus

Not to condemn ...

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, "so that through him the world might be saved." It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe "is already condemned." God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am next Sunday (17 March) inside the school grounds (undercover); entry via the gates that will be open after Mass. Please bring a plate of 'goodies' to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.