



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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B 17 MARCH 2024

Parish Staff

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

A Pastoral Note...

As we draw ever closer to Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and, thus, the beginning of Holy Week, we draw closer to the annual celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, that Paschal Mystery that lies at the very heart of our Christian faith.

The Paschal Triduum which comes at the end of Holy Week is THE holiest time of the year, since it commemorates and celebrates the Paschal Mystery in unique liturgical modes—one liturgy in three movements across three days.

There is nothing more significant in the Church's liturgical calendar than this celebration. Not Christmas, as important as it is; not Pentecost, as significant as it is; nothing at all.

This should come as no surprise, however, since we celebrate the Paschal Mystery each and every Sunday when we gather for Mass, as well as each and every time the Church gathers to celebrate any of its liturgical forms.

It is in the light of the Resurrection that we as Christians have our identity. It is in the light of the Resurrection that more than mere individuals, becoming brothers and sisters together. It is in the light of the Resurrection that we are called to live a life in keeping with the life of Jesus.

And, more significantly, in the light of that same Resurrection that we are called into mission, to take the same message of the Paschal Mystery

Palm Sunday Greenery

Next Sunday, 24 March, we celebrate Palm Sunday—and our liturgy will commence outside the doors of the church as we commemorate the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem that marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Please bring your greenery with you from home for blessing and carrying in procession into the church as we begin our commemorations.

out into the world so that others might hear it.

As we draw closer to commemorating the origins of our Christian identity, are we also preparing ourselves to once again take up the mantle of the missionary disciple that the Paschal Mystery calls us to?

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.

We'll organise an opportunity for a 'cuppa' or similar informal gathering after each of the Masses so Bishop Michael has a chance to get to know us.

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 on behalf of the Parishes should let Fr Andrew know.

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 in the table of liturgical days).

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.

Celebrating the Annunciation

This year, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is transferred to Monday 8 April because of the clash with the Monday of Holy Week (which ranks higher in the table of liturgical days).

A timetable of Masses for the Annunciation will be made available in our bulletin in the coming weeks.

Celebration of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation for 2024 will be celebrated on **Thursday, 18 April** starting at 6.30pm in St Mary's, Dungog.

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.

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 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

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.

The Proclamation of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday

With the beginning of Holy Week next Sunday (Palm Sunday), we come to that time each year when the Passion of Our Lord is publicly proclaimed during Mass.

On **Palm Sunday** we will have the traditional proclamation of the Passion in three voices—the part of Jesus being taken by the priest, one reader taking the part of the narrator, and the other reader taking the part of the other parts. This year we hear Mark's account of the Passion.

On **Good Friday** the priest will proclaim the Passion alone, proclaiming the Passion account from John's Gospel as is customary.

The often encountered practice of having the whole assembly voice the part of the crowd during the Passion is not envisaged by the official liturgical books of the Church and will not be observed in our parishes.

The proclamation of the Passion is an essential part of the liturgy of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, and is meant to be spoken and heard by all who are participating. To that end, those who generally make use of a personal missal at Mass are invited to put aside during the Passion and listen to the Passion being proclaimed.

Easter Timetable

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass	7pm	Dungog
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Good Friday

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

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil	8pm	Dungog
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Easter Sunday

Sunday Mass	8am 10am	Clarence Town East Gresford
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Repent!



Fifth Sunday of Lent 16 & 17 March



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

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)
5th Week of Lent

Monday 18 March

Solemnity of St Patrick

5.30pm Mass @ Clarence Town

Tuesday 19 March

Solemnity of St Joseph

Wednesday 20 March

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 21 March

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 22 March

NO MASS Fr Andrew to Rutherford for car window replacement

Saturday 23 March

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 24 March

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm Psalm 50

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

2nd Reading Hebrews 5:7-9

Acclamation John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 12:20-30

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."

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am TODAY (17 March) inside the school grounds (undercover); entry via the gates that will be open after Mass. Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.



In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Philip Gippel.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In March:

Gordon Smith, Dan Harrison, Linda Gleeson, Vincent Smith, 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.

**SCRIPTURAL
CONTEXT**

The Final Days

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

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.