



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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

5 MAY 2024

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am-1pm

Other Contacts

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Gresford Faith Banister
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Parish School

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Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

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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.



Advanced Notice—Pentecost Sunday

On Pentecost Sunday (19 May), I will be travelling to Gloucester to celebrate their 9am Mass along with the two Vicars General. That Mass will be followed by a parish meeting to discuss the new arrangements necessary following my appointment as Administrator.

On that day, **Fr Joyce Sebastian** (Parish Priest of Raymond Terrace) will celebrate the 8am Mass at Clarence Town, while **Fr Terry Horne** (the priest who normally celebrates Mass at Gloucester) will celebrate the 9.30am Mass at Dungog.

I am grateful for the willingness and generosity of both Frs Joyce and Terry to assist Clarence Town and Dungog and so facilitate my travel to Gloucester on this occasion.

Change to Parish Office Hours

The previously advised changes to Parish Office hours have now commenced, with the Office now being staffed on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** from 10am to 1pm.

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 on **Friday 25 October 2024** at 6.30pm.

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

Mass Count During May

The Diocese has asked for a count of mass attendances across the weekends of May, a return to a former practice that fell away during COVID.

“Counter's Record Form” have already been distributed to each of the churches, and it would be appreciated if someone in each locality could take responsibility for undertaking the required count each week at the same time during the Mass (for the sake of consistency), completing the Record Form, and sending it back to the Parish Office.

I will compile the records across the month, and then submit the collected data at the end of the month.

My thanks for everyone's assistance across the month.

Fr Andrew

Is It Time To Reintroduce Collections?

My thanks to all those who let me know their thinking on this matter over the last few weeks. I am most grateful for the feedback—an exercise in local 'synodality' if you like—on this question.

The overwhelming consensus would seem to be that we maintain the *status quo*, having our plates available at the church doors for people to make their contribution.

It was suggested that we look at where the plates are positioned in order to minimise the chance of them being overlooked by visitors, but they will remain at the doors for the foreseeable future.

As previously mentioned, there are other ways of contributing to the financial support of the parish and the diocesan clergy—including via the diocese's Mass App on your smart phone, by signing up for direct debit, to name but two. If this is something of interest to you, please speak with me.

Again, my thanks for feedback.

Fr Andrew

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Love One Another

Have you ever thought what it really means when Jesus commands us to love one another? At first, it seems like a simple commandment: I can love my family; my friends; I can even feel love for some people I've never met. But there was a condition that Jesus placed on the command: love one another as I have loved you. How did Jesus love? Without restriction and without seeking something in return. He loved those that no one loved and he even loved those who hated him and sought his downfall. Can I love those who hate me? Those that others ridicule and despise? Can I love without counting the cost?

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

Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music.

Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world.

Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven on Wednesday 15 May, starting the Toohey Room in Cathedral House. Gen will speak from 6.30pm, and Sacred@Seven will commence at 7.30pm (led by Fr Anthony Coloma).

To register, visit bit.ly/4aXc1OT.

Reflection Day with SRE Teachers

Special Religious Education (SRE) offers a safe place for students in state schools to learn about Jesus' love and to discuss matters of faith, spirituality, and beliefs. For teachers, it is a response to a calling of journeying with young people as they come to know Jesus Christ, who loves and teaches love.

You are invited to join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Special Religious Education teachers for a day of prayerful contemplation on **Wednesday 29 May**. Starting with Mass at **9am**, this is an occasion to listen to and engage in stories and experiences involving this ministry. An opportunity exists in the afternoon for us to visit the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to learn about this sacred space where children use sensory rich materials and Montessori principles to explore their relationship with God.

To register, visit bit.ly/3xUMxmF.



Christian Formation Course 2024/2025

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
- All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Expressions of interest are now open!

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, visit bit.ly/3UnqoFa.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

The Last Supper Discourse

In the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), the events of the Last Supper are dealt with in a very similar way. They all include Jesus taking bread and wine and speaking what are referred to as the words of institution – the words that are spoken over the bread and wine in every Eucharistic celebration today. In the Gospel of John, however, the Last Supper is dealt with very differently. It includes an extended 'discourse' that is incredibly rich in imagery and theological implications. Perhaps because this gospel was written well after the others it was deemed unnecessary to retell the story but it was timely to do some reflecting on the meaning of the events?

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Sixth Week of Easter

Monday 6 May

Tuesday 7 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 8 May

Thursday 9 May

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 10 May

1.30pm Mother's Day Liturgy @ Dungog

Saturday 11 May

10am Baptism @ Clarence Town

Sunday 12 May

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill (followed by a Baptism)

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May: *"Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel."*



Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: by phoning 4979 1390 or by emailing childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au.

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm Psalm 97

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

2nd Reading 1 John 4:7-10

Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:9-17

Memorial Acclamation

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

Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Matilda Benson**, together with her family and friends, as we celebrate her Baptism next Saturday at 10.30am in St Patrick's, Clarence Town.

We also welcome **Lane Banister**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism next Sunday after the 11.30 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Summer Hill.

Alleluia!!

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In May: Ray Johnson, Danny Robertson, Eileen Moylan, Nita Ford, Mary Kealy, Ted McFadyen, Evelyn Martin, Clarke Deards, Don Trow, Margaret Smith, Alvin Robertson, Carmel Hudson, Steve Bartlett, Fr Peter Williams, Ian Tope, Dulcie Hepworth, Jenny Szymec, Catherine Atkins, Irene Byron, Bill & Hannah Byron, Helen Cooper, Rodney Ryan, Gordon Ryan, Joyce Little, Jan Graboski, Betty Vell, Cecilia Catherine Wilson.

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, Lyn Kerr, Neville Barry, Susan Barlow.