



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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B

12 MAY 2024

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
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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...

And so we are rapidly approaching the end of our celebration of the Easter Season—only one more week to go!

The Easter Season is the longest of the liturgical seasons that features in the Church's liturgical year (Ordinary Time is not a liturgical season!) and covers full one-seventh of the calendar.

Perhaps this might give some indication as to the significance and importance that is attached to the liturgical celebration of Easter, which is not limited to a weekend in March (as it was this year) but extends beyond that to impact each and every day of our life.

It can be difficult to hold on to the joy of Easter, particularly in a world that is governed more by commercial interests. Yet as Christians, who get their very existence from the Paschal Mystery, i.e., the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, perhaps we are called to be even more counter-cultural by being clearly and distinctly people who not only celebrate Easter each year but each and every day.

What does that look like? Your guess is as good as mine!

Indeed, there is perhaps no single answer, with each Christian giving expression to their 'Easter joy' as they are able and as opportunities to do so present themselves.

So as we approach the end of the Easter Season, I pose a simply but direct question to all of us, myself included: In what ways am I called to give life to 'Easter joy' in my life, in my family, in my community?

The question is certainly worth a bit of thought and prayer.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

Palliative Care Week Service

The National Palliative Care Week will take place in 2024 from 19 May through to 25 May. To acknowledge Palliative Care Week locally, the Dungog Palliative Care Service has organised a church service to take place on Sunday 19 May.

The service will be held at Christ Church Anglican Church, Dungog, commencing at 6.30pm.

All are welcome to attend.



Bishop Michael to Visit Summer Hill

Following his recent visit to our parishes, Bishop Michael invited parishes with churches he hadn't visited to contact his office to schedule visits to these churches.

I jumped on the invitation, and during the week was advised that Bishop Michael will travel to our Summer Hill church on **Sunday 14 July** and will join us for Mass and refreshments afterwards.

Pencil the day into your diaries accordingly.

Fr Andrew

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.

Parish Volunteer Safeguarding Training

Tuesday 18 June 2024. 9.30am to 12.30pm (Lunch Provided). Murray Room, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle

All parish workers are required to attend the course **Safeguarding Training in Parishes** within 6 months of commencing in their role and every 6 years thereafter.

This training forms part of the **Diocese's mandatory training regime** and is specifically designed to support paid and unpaid helpers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

If you would like to attend this training, please let the Parish Office know (by email or telephone) by **4 June** and we will pass on your registration.

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

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.

Alleluia!!

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.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Seventh Week of Easter

Monday 13 May

Tuesday 14 May

Feast of St Matthias

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 15 May

Thursday 16 May

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 17 May

Saturday 18 May

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 19 May

Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Acts 1:1-11

Psalm Psalm 46

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

2nd Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 16:15-20

Memorial Acclamation

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

Rejoice!!

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."*

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (19 May) inside the school grounds (undercover); entry via the gates that will be open after Mass.

Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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 Szmynek, 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, Ottilie Sheens, Lyn Kerr, Neville Barry, Susan Barlow.

