



# 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.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR B

### 19 MAY 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

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

#### Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am-1pm

#### Other Contacts

Clarence Town      Val Preece  
0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or  
email 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  
W: 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.

#### A Pastoral Note...

A lot of people think of Pentecost Sunday as the 'birthday' of the Church. Today, in many parishes, there'll be birthday cakes produced and eaten after Masses.

Now don't get me wrong—I love a good birthday cake!—but today is not the Church's birthday! That understanding is something that we should probably try to get away from as we grow in wisdom.

Last week, in our first reading from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus told his disciples "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses".

Today, this solemnity of Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the fulfilment of that promise, the fulfilment of which gives us everything we need to become witnesses to the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

So we're not celebrating the birthday of Church today—the Church already existed before the first Pentecost Sunday! We are celebrating God's continuing presence in the life of that Church, that which enables us to bring the Church's mission to life.

After all, the Church doesn't have a mission—but the mission most certainly does have a Church. And God has given us everything necessary to both embrace the mission and make it real here and now, in this time and place.

And that is certainly something worth celebrating, even if it doesn't demand the eating of birthday cake.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

### New Electronic Giving Options

Thanks to upgrades within the Catholic Community Fund (the new trading name for the Catholic Development Fund, there is a now a new option for those wishing to make contributions to our Parish bank accounts—but only electronically.

Each of the four bank accounts now has its own unique account number which allows for money to be sent directly to the appropriate account.

For contributions to the First Collection, please use the account number 10 002 9440.

For contributions to the Second Collection, please use the appropriate account number below:

**Dungog:** 10 000 5170

**Gresford:** 10 000 5173

The BSB is **066 739** for all accounts. If your financial institution says the number doesn't exist, ask them to update their information.

Please use the "**Catholic Development Fund**" as the account name (regardless of which account you're sending money to).

In the reference field, please use your Surname and/or Envelope No.

In light of the recent notices about other options that might be available to make contributions, this information might be of some assistance for parishioners seeking alternative means of doing so. This information will be featured regularly in the bulletin.

**Again**, these details are only applicable to electronic transactions, and will not work in over counter transactions.

# Alleluia!!

### Pentecost Sunday

We welcome **Fr Joyce Sebastian** who will celebrate the 8am Mass at Clarence Town, and **Fr Terry Horne** who will celebrate the 9.30am Mass at Dungog today while I'm in Gloucester for Mass and a Parish meeting.

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. Please make them welcome.

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 held at Christ Church Anglican Church, Dungog, commencing at 6.30pm.

All are welcome to attend.

### 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. If someone from each locality would be kind enough to the previously distributed "Record Form" each week and return it to the Parish Office, I would be most grateful.

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

Fr Andrew

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT Pentecost

*The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.*

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

### 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](http://bit.ly/3xUMxmF).

### 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.

### Bishop Michael to Visit Summer Hill

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

## 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.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units introducing participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. Those who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

*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](http://bit.ly/3UnqoFa).

## Refugee Hub Volunteers Wanted

The CatholicCare Refugee Hub is looking for volunteers to support its Driving and Tutoring programs.

As part of the Driving Program, you will mentor participants and help them build their skills through both practical and theory lessons. Using CatholicCare's insured fleet cars, you will also assist them in completing their logbook hours to get their license.

In the Tutoring Program, you will support primary and high school students from refugee backgrounds with their schoolwork. The program runs from 2.30pm to 5pm on Tuesdays during the school term.

For more information or to apply, visit [4bgwj6l](http://4bgwj6l).

## Parish Bulletins

Our bulletins are posted to the website each week and the last three months are generally available from the 'Bulletin' on the top menu.

You can also sign up to receive an email notification each week (generally on the Saturday morning) from which you can download the bulletin. The sign up form is on the front page of the website (in the bottom right hand corner).

## 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 on **Friday 25 October 2024** at 6.30pm. Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Seventh Week of Easter

Monday 20 May

Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church

Tuesday 21 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Funeral Liturgy for Maisie Trow @  
Clarence Town

Wednesday 22 May

Thursday 23 May

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 24 May

Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians

12pm Mass @ Dungog (with students from  
St Joseph's School to mark Catholic  
Schools Week)

Saturday 25 May

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 26 May

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Acts 2:1-11

**Psalm** Psalm 103

Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of  
the earth.

**2nd Reading** Galatians 5:16-25

**Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

**Memorial Acclamation**

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

**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 TODAY (19 May) 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:** Pam Williams, Maisie Trow.

**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.



## Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Parishes of Dungog & Gresford hold that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.

In line with the Safeguarding Policy of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, our parishes have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding all who interact with the parishes through our activities, ministries and services, especially children and adults at risk.