



# 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.

## MOST HOLY TRINITY, YEAR B

### 26 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

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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](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au).

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



#### A Pastoral Note...

It may not feel like it, but we've returned to marking Ordinary Time. And this is despite the fact we celebrate two major solemnities this week (that of the Most Holy Trinity) and next week (that of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ).

These two celebrations, which are known as "Solemnities of the Lord in Ordinary Time", lay outside our usual celebration of the seasonal (i.e., connected with time) or the sanctoral (i.e., connected with the saints).

Instead, they mark our celebration of some primary theological understandings of aspects of our Christian faith.

Although these two feasts in particular follow on immediately from the Easter Season each year, they are not part of our Easter celebrations. Yet having celebrated that which is central to our Christian faith—the Death and Resurrection of

Jesus—acknowledging our belief in the Trinity and the centrality of Eucharist seems more than appropriate, at least in terms of timing.

Today's celebration of the Most Holy Trinity is about celebrating our belief in how God has revealed God's identity to us. We can struggle to completely get our heads around the fullness of the doctrine of the Trinity, but I suspect we do not struggle with acknowledging God to have been revealed to us as 'Father, Son, and Holy Spirit' - especially when this understanding and belief is part of our every day prayer in the Sign of the Cross.

And if you struggle to understand the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity? You're not alone!

Have a blessed week . . .

*Fr Andrew*

### **The Sacraments of Penance & Anointing**

For parishioners who might wish to celebrate the Sacraments of Penance (Reconciliation) and the Anointing of the Sick please contact Fr Andrew either at the Presbytery or by mobile (if the situation is more urgent).

### **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.

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.

### **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](https://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—Last Weekend!**

This weekend is the last weekend of the mass attendance count requested by the diocese. My thanks to those who have assisted in undertaking this task.

*Fr Andrew*

### **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](https://4bgwj6l).

### **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.

### **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](https://bit.ly/3UnqoFa).

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.

## Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

One of the things we often hear in times of domestic, local or international crisis is that 'everyone pulled together'. We are rightly proud, and a few times amazed, at how people can set aside their differences and strive for the common good. Sometimes this experience of working together has the long-lasting benefit of breaking down boundaries. Other times, sadly, old enmities, prejudices and suspicions return when the crisis is over.

Trinity Sunday celebrates that whether we are in crisis or not, in season and out of season, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit do nothing but 'pull together' to love and save us. What we glimpse as the best attribute of our family, town or nation defines who our Christian God is, and what they see, how they judge and the way they act toward the world.

A famous icon of the Trinity depicts the three persons at a table where there are four place settings. The final place, in the lower half of the painting, invites the viewer to take the seat and join them. It's profound theology and masterful art, but we can quickly misunderstand it.

We are not just personally invited to join in the very life of God, and pull together with them in their loving and saving of the world. The seat at the table is reserved for all of humanity.

In practical terms it is impossible to profess belief in the Trinity, on the one hand, and then work at things which pull the human family apart, on the other. It is scandalous to hold to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and be known as racist, bigoted and sexist, to not care about refugees or those who die each day of starvation. We cannot keep signing ourselves in the name of a Triune God and then work hard at getting richer and more secure while the rest of humanity grow poorer and lack the necessities for human dignity. Ghandi once said, 'I love the New Testament and the Christian ideas about God and I would take the waters of Christian baptism tomorrow if I saw Christians practise what they the preach.'

Trinity Sunday is not about theological mathematics, working out how three goes into one. It's about gaining the strength at this Eucharist to pull together to see that all of God's children have the opportunity to hear the good news of how much God loves us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so can take their privileged place at God's table. Most people will learn about the saving love of God primarily through the way they observe us seeing, judging and acting.

It's not by accident that in our Catholic tradition the usual moment we invoke the Trinity is when we make the sign of the cross. It reminds us that 'we cannot have our cake and eat it too'. Every time we profess the Trinity we recommit ourselves to die to self so that God's saving love may be realised for everyone, everywhere.

So let's not only profess our belief in the three persons that make up our one God, but live the life that goes with it, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## Opportunities Outside The Parish

### Reflection Day with SRE Teachers

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).

## Electronic Banking Details

To make a contribution to parish finances, please note:

BSB: 066 739  
A/c Name: Catholic Development Fund  
Reference: Your Surname and/or Envelope No.

Account Nos:

First collection: 10 002 9440

Second collection:

Dungog: 10 000 5170

Gresford 10 000 5173

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

*Eighth Week in Ordinary Time*

Monday 27 May

Tuesday 28 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 29 May

Thursday 30 May

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 31 May

*Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Saturday 1 June

*Memorial of St Justin*

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 2 June

*Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

**Psalm** Psalm 32

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**2nd Reading** Romans 8:14-17

**Acclamation** cf Rev 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 28:16-20

### 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."*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### I believe

*The word 'Trinity' does not appear anywhere in the New Testament although one can certainly see the beginnings of ideas about a Trinitarian God. It was not until 325, at the Council of Nicea, that the doctrine of the trinity was established as being orthodox teaching. This council sought to officially define the relationship between the Father and the Son as a response to the arguments of Arius (later known as Arian heresy). The statement of beliefs developed by this council in 325 is the Creed (credo - I believe) that is used in Catholic churches around the world today.*

### 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.

### Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass next Sunday (2 June). 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:** Maisie Trow, Bruce Clark.

**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.