



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.

BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST, YEAR B

2 JUNE 2024

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
Deacon Solomon Okovido (*In Residence*)
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Presbytery & Parish Office

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Other Contacts

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Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
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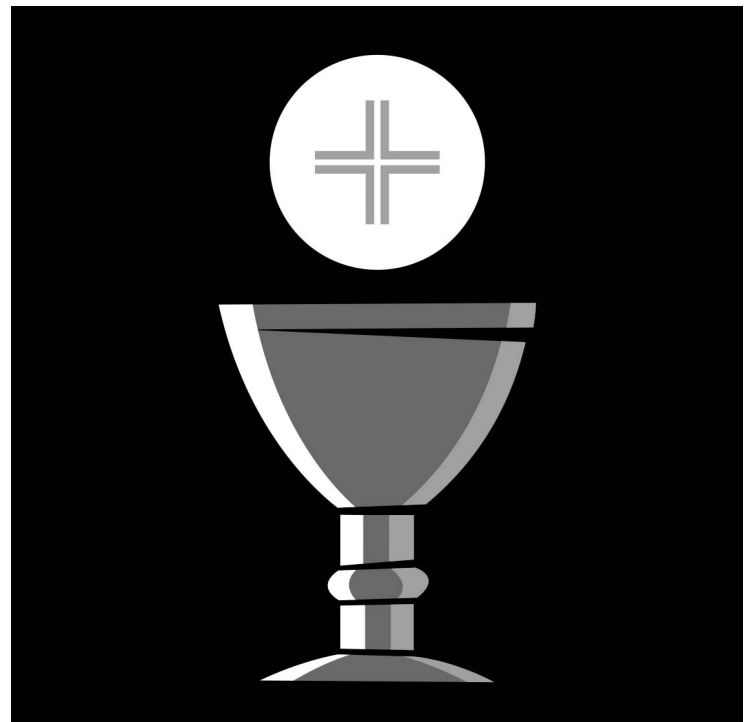
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Parish Bulletin is published each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website which is updated weekly.

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 the calendar turns over into June, and the year we know as 2024 becomes another year older.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised by this since time has an inevitable habit of just keep rolling on—even when we wish it could stand still for just a moment.

Of course, the concept of time has a liturgical and theological dimension to it. It's why we can speak of having a liturgical calendar, liturgical seasons, or, even, the Ordinary Time we find ourselves in at the moment.

Time has a way of allowing us to engage with—to encounter—things beyond our immediate vision, to encounter the Divine here and now, when our very selves become attuned to what might be beyond our awareness at any other time.

The passage of time—and the unfolding of divine

revelation that comes with the unfolding of time—is one of the privileged means that Christians have to embrace this opportunity to seek out God's desire to communicate with us.

There's only one requirement: we have to be open to the possibility that the passage of time might be the means by which God is revealed to us.

The temptation to not be attentive is always present, and at times can be a dominant action in our lives. Indeed, our society doesn't always value taking the opportunity to become aware of what the passing of time might be revealing.

And yet, if we don't stop and pay attention, do we run the risk of missing something? It may be worth a thought.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

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!

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.

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.

Tax Season Is Coming

With the arrival of June means that the annual adventure that is tax season is upon us.

Which also means that its time for those who would like tax receipts for their contributions to planned giving to let the Parish Office know. It would be appreciated if this could be done no later than **Tuesday 25 June**, by phone or email to the Parish Office.

This will allow for the timely preparation of receipts ready for distribution.

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.

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.

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

In years gone by the major focus of this feast of Corpus Christi was a procession that usually concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Many of us have fond memories of Benediction: a bejewelled cope and monstrance, the flickering candles, the Divine Praises and Latin hymns. It all worked to create a magical atmosphere. As richly theatrical as it was, the magical side of it was part of the problem.

In medieval times Catholics rarely received Holy Communion. So much so it was in this context that the Church ruled that we have to communicate at least once a year. In the absence of communion, veneration of the Blessed Sacrament took on a great significance. Seeing the host was thought to impart an intense power.

Although in the last 100 years we have been encouraged to receive communion more frequently, the magical properties ascribed to the host persist in some people's devotional thinking.

As Catholics we believe that Jesus is really and personally present to us in the broken bread and shared cup of the Eucharist. And although we believe that Christ is present in the Scriptures, the assembly and the ministers of the Church, we hold that Christ's presence under the form of bread and wine is one filled with the greatest intimacy and uniqueness.

The Eucharist is not intimate and unique because it is magic. It's not intimate and unique because we gaze upon the elements. The Eucharist is intimate and unique because earthly signs are transformed by God's love, and are consumed in faith. As we eat and drink these elements Christ becomes part of us, and we come alive in Christ.

In the fifth century Saint Augustine taught his people that if they truly loved the Eucharist they would become what they eat. The same is true for us today. By receiving into our hands the bread – blessed and broken, the cup – poured and shared, we say 'Amen' to becoming the same in Christ: blessed, broken, poured out and shared in love. We commune with God and God with us in the Eucharist so that just as earthly gifts are transformed into Christ so through us will be the entire world, and all things in it.

There is a huge and important difference between grace and magic. One is a trick for show. The other is the power of love, which expresses itself in faith, hope and service.

In a profound poem French Jesuit Didier Rimaud challenges those of us who love the Eucharist to see it linked to the liberation begun in the Exodus, consummated in the Resurrection and working in our world today.

In remembrance of you,
We take the bread of Easter in our hands,
This Bread do we consume:
It does no longer taste of bitter herbs,
nor of unleavened bread.
It is the bread of a land promised us
where we shall be set free.
In remembrance of you,
We take the wine of Easter at our feast,
This wine do we hold dear.
It does no longer taste of bitter springs,
nor of dark salty pools.
It is the wine of land promised us
where we shall be made whole.
In remembrance of you,
From exile we return.
In remembrance of you,
We walk across the sea!

No wonder the early Christians called the Body and Blood of Christ, 'food for the journey'. May this Eucharist strengthen and embolden us to help God liberate and transform the world through how we spend our lives.

© 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.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Words of Institution

The words of the gospel passage in which Jesus takes bread and wine and blesses them will be familiar. They are the words used at the consecration of the bread and wine during the Mass. The words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper are regarded as instituting the celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus took an act that was familiar to the Passover meal and gave it a new meaning and a new significance for his followers. What had been a memory of escape from slavery in Egypt became an ongoing reminder of Christ's continued presence in the Eucharist and in the Eucharistic community.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 3 June

Memorial of Sts Charles Lwanga & companions

Tuesday 4 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 5 June

Memorial of St Boniface

Thursday 6 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 7 June

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

11.30am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 8 June

Memorial of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday 9 June

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Exodus 24:3-8

Psalm Psalm 115

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

2nd Reading Hebrews 9:11-5

Acclamation John 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June: "Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries."

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass TODAY (2 June). Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

The Sacraments of Penance & Anointing

The Sacraments of Penance (Reconciliation) and the Anointing of the Sick are available by contacting Fr Andrew.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Bruce Clark, Ray Styles

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In June:

Nora Enright, Tom Richardson, Mary Clayden, Rudd Convery, Laura Black, Daphne Oades, Bede Johnson, Bruce Ralstone, Tom Stone, Noel Smith, Meryl Ryan, Edward Kealy, William Hudson, Sydney & Zita Osmond, Helen Collins, Gisela Kirston, Joan Oliver, Fr Brian Bailey, Kenny Barry, Roy Preece, Ken Cooper, Cheryl Maytom, Margaret Mary Dooley.

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Covenant

Covenant is a recurring element throughout the Old Testament writings. A covenant is a formal agreement between two or more parties. In the Biblical context, covenants were made between God and God's people. The first covenant, although not described as such, is the covenant between God and Adam – each promising certain things. After the failure of this covenant, God renewed the covenant promise to Noah and symbolised it with the rainbow. Later covenants were again struck with Abraham, Moses and David – each time initiated by God to give the people another chance to be faithful to their relationship.

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.