



# 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.

## 10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 9 JUNE 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

Clarence Town      Val Preece  
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email vip\_1@bigpond.com

Gresford      Faith Banister  
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#### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary 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](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au).

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

#### An Update on Deacon Solomon

I was notified on Friday that Bishop Michael has made a decision to transfer Deacon Solomon from his placement across the Chisholm Parishes—and thus his residence with us here in Dungog—with effect from Monday 17 June.

The transfer is part of Deacon Solomon's ongoing discernment/preparation journey, which will now be focussed on Inner Newcastle Parish. Deacon Solomon will reside at the Cathedral Presbytery.

Although Solomon has only been with us a short time, we thank him for his contribution to our faith community during that time, and wish him well for his new posting and the journey ahead.

On a personal note, I want to thank Solomon for his company in the house and wish him well whatever might come next.

Fr Andrew



### **Parish Office Update**

Our Parish Secretary, Kerry Copus, is taking a couple of weeks of Annual Leave from this week, and so access to the Parish Office will be 'limited' - though I will do my best to stay on top of things.

*Fr Andrew*

### **Update on Parish Hall**

The construction of the new classroom at St Joseph's is now finished, and Kindergarten will be moving to their new learning space over the coming week.

Which means that in two weeks or so the Parish Hall will once again be available for parish activities.

Our regular morning tea next Sunday will be the last to be hosted in the school's Staff Room, and from July we will be back in the Parish Hall.

A big thank you to all parishioners for their patience during the construction of the new classroom and for not being able to use the Parish Hall.

**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."*

### **Planned Giving Envelopes**

New planned giving envelopes for the 2024/2025 financial year have been placed for collection in our churches from this week. Please take the time to collect your set of envelopes in advance of the end of the current financial year.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions about the new envelopes.

### **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!

### **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.

### **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](https://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](https://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 Michael Tate Avoiding the real Jesus

This Gospel passage portrays two ways in which we can reject the *real* Jesus Christ. One way is quite common and we all engage in it to one degree or another. Thank goodness it is forgivable. The other is rare but has very dire consequences.

The first way is to domesticate Jesus, and that is what members of his blood family were trying to do. They thought he was 'out of his mind', already provoking a severe reaction from the religious and political authorities. He was madly putting himself in harm's way and he had to be restrained.

But Jesus would not give up his mission to establish the reign of God on earth, the signs of which were the curing of bodies and minds, and the forgiving of sins, embodying the merciful healing presence of God, come what may (and he did know what was coming!).

His Nazareth family were trying to reduce him to manageable size so that he did not imperil himself, and them. So, he dramatically creates a new family constituted by those who, like him, are dedicated to doing the will of God.

You and I have to ask: 'Have I tried to domesticate Jesus Christ, to reduce him to a non-threatening Jesus-meek-and-mild?' If so, we are closer to the family of Nazareth standing just outside his circle, ready to run for cover, than to the family of Jesus Christ seated around him really listening to him and therefore vulnerable.

The second way to reject the real Jesus Christ is to completely, and with malice aforethought, misconstrue all the evidence of Jesus' mission on earth and claim that it must be Satanic, that he must be in league with the devil.

Jesus quickly retorts that, if that were the case there must be a civil war going on in Satania, because he is constantly undoing the devil's work by merciful healing. The charge is nonsense.

Worse than that, if you grievously mislead others by saying publicly, as did these religious leaders, that Jesus is diabolically acting because 'He has an unclean spirit', then it is this malicious misleading of others that is unforgiveable. You have deliberately put the salvation of others at risk.

This is real blasphemy, not some outburst of language disrespecting God, but a deliberate turning against God's plan to send the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ amongst us for our salvation.

You have also made yourself the sort of person who, at death, will not recognise the saving

presence of the Risen Lord for who he is – the source of forgiveness necessary to be swept up into the loving eternal life of God.

The fact that you are here listening to this homily leads me, with pastoral confidence not presumption, to say that you need not be worried that you have committed *this* blasphemy.

You and I may be more justly worried about the first mode of rejection of the real Jesus.

Fortunately, we can with the grace of God recognise this and determine to read and hear the Gospels, discern the will of God for our lives and come back within the ultimate family allegiance of those who dare to call God 'our Father'.

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Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

# Rejoice!!

## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Binding the strong man

*The incarnation of Jesus in the world – God becoming fully human and physically present in the world – was an act of supreme love for the world. The image of binding the strong man echoes this act of love. The image is reminiscent of a bully or tyrant who is wreaking havoc and terrorizing a community. Before justice can be restored and the victims/survivors lifted up, the 'strong man' must be restrained and subdued. To bring about the loving act of God in the world, the power of evil must be resisted and bound up.*

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 10 June

Tuesday 11 June

Memorial of St Barnabas

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 12 June

Thursday 13 June

Memorial of St Anthony of Padua

**NO MASS** Fr Andrew attending meetings with Bishop Michael in Newcastle

Friday 14 June

Saturday 15 June

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 16 June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

10.30am Baptism @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Genesis 3:9-15

**Psalm** Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**2nd Reading** 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

**Acclamation** John 12:31, 32

Alleluia, alleluia!

The prince of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mark 3:20-35

**Memorial Acclamation**

Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

## Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (16 June) 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.

## Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Austin Foot**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism next Sunday at 10.30am in St Mary's, Dungog.

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** 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, Phillip French, Allwyn Gippel.

# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## Mark's Messiah

*Throughout the Gospel of Mark, the author explores the question of who people believe Jesus to be. Whilst his disciples have a less than perfect understanding of the question, 'Who do you say I am?', those whose faith reveals the truth of Jesus are quickly sworn to secrecy. In today's gospel, the misunderstanding of Jesus' family and the misunderstanding of the Scribes show their incomplete grasp of who Jesus is. Whilst the language about Satan, evil and unclean spirits is unfamiliar language today, the gospel writer uses this imagery to further his point that Jesus is the Messiah, the one who saves the world.*

## 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au).