



# 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.

## 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 16 JUNE 2024

#### Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)  
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

#### Presbytery & Parish Office

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#### Office Hours

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#### Other Contacts

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#### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School  
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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 should go without saying, but I'm going to say it anyway!

As we move into the colder months of the year there will be occasions when some of our fellow parishioners will suffer from the common cold, or the flu, or even the dreaded COVID. It is part of the way things are, and we learn to live with them as we go about the daily activities we face.

Of course, these things which are part of our ordinary life are *not* something we should share. I would go as far as saying that being prepared to share them is a thoroughly un-Christian act, and thus something to be avoided.

All of which is preparatory to reminding everyone that when you are suffering from a cold, the flu, or COVID, you are not expected to attend Sunday Mass. The 'obligation' to do so ceases to exist when you are sick, and it's a wonderful act of caring for your fellow parishioners for you to remain at home and recover.

Admittedly, you're not let off 'the hook' totally. There remains the 'obligation' to spend some time on Sunday in prayer, most effectively by praying and meditating on the Scripture readings that are proclaimed on that particular Sunday.

There are also other options, including 'tuning in' to *Mass For You At Home* on your television, or even following the Sunday Mass from our own Cathedral (which can be accessed from the front page of the Cathedral's website—[www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au](http://www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au)).

So please look after yourselves this winter season, and also assist in caring for your fellow parishioners by staying home when you're sick.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

### **Congratulations to Pam & Keith**

A big congratulations to Pam & Keith Edwards who are celebrating the 60th anniversary of marriage.

We will offer a special blessing for and over them during the 9.30am Mass today.

### **Update on Parish Hall**

With almost prophetic timing, the Parish Hall will become available for parish use and activities from tomorrow (Monday 17 June).

Anyone who would like to make use of the Hall should feel free to do so, though please check with the school first to check if they have 'booked it' for use.

During today's morning tea, parishioners are invited to inspect the new classroom if they wish to do so—it's certainly worth a look!

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!

## **gospel focus**

### **The Kingdom of God**

*The references to the kingdom of God in the gospels always carry a paradox. It exists in the present, yet is something to be achieved in the future. It is here, but not yet. If we live 'as if' we are living in the kingdom here and now then we hasten its coming. The kingdom of God is not a place but a way in which the world operates. It is a kingdom that is ruled by justice and gives precedence to those who are regarded as nothing in the world. It is a kingdom of promise and hope that inspires and calls all people to more than they currently are.*

### **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.

### **Parish Office Update**

Our Parish Secretary, Kerry Copus, is currently enjoying a couple of weeks of Annual Leave and will return on Tuesday 25 June. Access to the Parish Office services will be 'limited' - though I will do my best to stay on top of things.

Fr Andrew

## **Living the gospel**

### **Seed on the land**

*The first parable in the gospel passage describes the unerring work of the kingdom. It is like the seed that almost magically transforms into a fully grown plant that may be harvested - apparently without any external forces. Of course, we know that plants need to be fed, watered, weeded and nurtured to ensure their proper growth. However, the kingdom of God works in our lives in a similar way - if we feed and nurture it, the kingdom will produce a great harvest. Even if we don't pay it attention, the kingdom is present and acting in our world.*

### **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.

### **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.

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

### *The Sowing of the Seed*

In Australia, so far as I know, a farmer ploughs the land and *then* plants the seed. In Galilee, the farmer scattered the seed on the old field and therefore on tracks which people made walking across it after cropping, on thorny areas, and also on what he hoped was good soil. He *then* ploughed in the seed.

It is a wonder that anything grew, and generally the return was about 7:1. In a previous parable Jesus had spoken of the Kingdom he was inaugurating as if it would turn out to be like a bumper harvest of up to a hundredfold.

What would such a harvest mean for a peasant filling the rocky soil of Galilee? It would mean release from the endless servitude to a landlord, generation after generation. It would mean liberation, not only from hunger, but from the power structure which was quite content with a permanent underclass of subsistence farmers.

In other words, Jesus was telling his listeners that God's Kingdom would turn the world as they knew it 'upside down'. As Mary sang in the Magnificat: 'The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.' Power structures would be shattered by the impulses of the Gospel to create a society where there was a just distribution of the world's resources.

Naturally, the peasant farmers of Galilee wanted to know 'when' and 'how'. We want to know the 'when' and the 'how' of the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' answer to them, and to us, is basically: 'It is not for you to know. Just get on with the sowing of the Gospel seed. Something will happen with the seed you sow, something out of all proportion to your part in the process.'

Our Lord pictured this by contrasting the tiny mustard seed and the mustard bush which he even exaggerates into a tree in which birds could find shelter!

In this parable Jesus says: 'Be patient, allow the creative power of God to work in the earth and the small seed will be "raised up".'

When did God's creative power work in the depths of the stony ground so that the Gospel Seed was raised up? The answer is, of course, in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And what effect did this have? We read in the Acts of the Apostles concerning the early Christian community that 'The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out

the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.' (Acts 2:44)

In other words, the social system was being subverted by the power of the Gospel. A more just distribution of resources was taking place in the immediate aftermath of the proclamation of the Resurrection by Peter on the Feast of Pentecost.

I think it is very telling that a little further on in the Acts of the Apostles we read: 'The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no-one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.' (Acts 4:32-33)

There is a correlation between the commitment of Christians to a just distribution of the world's resources and the proclamation of the Lord's resurrection. Only if the commitment is authentic and real will the proclamation be powerful and effective.

So,

- let us lead lives with an authentic dimension of social justice,
- let us get on with sowing the seed of the Gospel whenever we get the opportunity,
- let God get on with germinating that seed with the power of the Resurrection so that the Tree of Life may grow to such a height that all peoples 'can shelter in its shade.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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!!*



## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 17 June

Tuesday 18 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 19 June

Thursday 20 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 21 June

Memorial of St Aloysius Gonzaga

Saturday 22 June

Memorial of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 23 June

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Baptisms @ Clarence Town

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** Ezekiel 17:22-24

**Psalm** Psalm 91  
Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

**2nd Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

### Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mark 4:26-34

### Memorial Acclamation

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

## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

### Those Who Have Died:

#### 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.

**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 Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass TODAY (16 June) inside the school administration building.

Please and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

## Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Malakai & Spencer Rimoni**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate their Baptisms next Sunday at 11am in St Patrick's, Clarence Town.

## 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.

