



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.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

23 JUNE 2024

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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...

I'm going on holidays!

By which I mean that the time for my Annual Leave is rapidly approaching, as this year my leave will return to the 'normal' time I usually take it.

I will on leave, and absent from the Parishes, from Friday 2 August and will return on Friday 30 August. I will be away for four weekends, and there will be no supply priest coming to cover Masses for those four weekends.

A more expansive explanation of arrangements will appear in next week's bulletin so that everyone is prepared for the time I am away.

Over the early weeks of July there will be other information provided in the bulletin, outlining a number of issues that need to be considered and addressed by the entire community of our parishes.

I will be putting these issues in print before I head away so that you can discuss them amongst yourselves in advance of parish assemblies that will take place later in the year.

At these assemblies I hope that together we might be able to reach a solution which can then be implemented together across the remainder of the current financial year.

So watch this space, and all that is yet to be written.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

The Sacraments of Penance & Anointing

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

Alleluia!

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.

Parish Office Update

Our Parish Secretary, Kerry Copus, will return from her well deserved Annual Leave this week. Hopefully I haven't upset Kerry's usual standard of operations too much!

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!

Dungog Combined Churches Service

The next Combined Churches Service in Dungog will take place on **Sunday 30 June** at Christ Church Anglican Church, Dowling St, Dungog.

The Service will commence at 6.30pm and will be followed by supper. Please bring a plate to share.

Rejoice!!

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 Voice Which Accompanies to the Other Side

According to St Paul 'the whole of creation... is yearning to share in the glory promised to the children of God.' (Romans 8)

In the meantime it is as though from the beginning every element of the universe is 'listening out' for the word which will bring it into harmony with that deepest yearning, listening so as to exist in a way which is never destructive of God's plan for humanity and all other creatures.

And that is what happens in this gospel episode. What is the situation of creation? One has a howling wind, shrieking against every timber of the boat, storm-tossed waves threatening to engulf and sink the boat.

What word is heard by these elements of the universe? A word which they hear even as they are at their most destructive.

'Quiet, be still.' [repeat]

And there was a dead calm. Why?

Because this was a word spoken by the Lord of all creation, the Sovereign of the universe.

And what was the result? The disciples were able to make their way across the Sea of Galilee 'to the other side' in the company of Jesus. What does that mean?

They were able to go from the western Jewish side to the eastern Pagan side. That is from the side which they knew, from the side with which they were familiar, from the side where they were 'at home' to the side which they did not know, which was unfamiliar territory for them, where, far from being at home, they would feel dis-located, dis-placed.

That is why this gospel story is good news for us, for you and for me. There will be times, there have been times when, in the journey of life, suddenly chaos erupts. A tempest storms into our life. The wind is howling. We want to block our ears to the situation threatening us whether from the outside or from some part of our own personality. We feel we are being swamped. Some part of us is facing death.

With the disciples we may cry out to Jesus 'Don't you care?' And the Lord of the Universe will ensure we are not submerged by chaotic, dark forces.

But, he will not turn us back to the situation as before. We must continue to 'the other side'. It will be unfamiliar territory. We will feel displaced, somewhat disoriented.

But we will also find that Our Lord has accompanied us in that journey through the

chaos. He is our companion as we find our bearings in the new situation we have reached 'on the other side'.

There will possibly be many such transits in the journey of life until the final transit to truly new territory through the wrenching chaos and dis-integration of death.

We should pray that in the midst of dying we will hear Our Lord rebuking the Prince of Darkness and Death: 'Quiet, be still.' And Our Lord will accompany us, be our companion to the other side, to the Promised Land of Heaven.

© 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.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Miracle stories

The miracle stories of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) generally fall into four categories of miracle: healing miracles (healing of physical ailments and disease); exorcism miracles (driving out evil spirits – often associated with a form of healing); resuscitation miracles (bringing people back to life); and nature miracles (Jesus appears to contradict the laws of nature – walking on water, multiplying food and calming a storm). Each type of miracle story tends to have its own literary structure and being able to recognise the type of miracle being described assists the interpretation of the gospel account.

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)

Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 24 June

Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist

Tuesday 25 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 26 June

Thursday 27 June

Solemnity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 28 June

Memorial of St Irenaeus

Saturday 29 June

Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 30 June

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Job 38:1, 8-11

Psalm Psalm 106

Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Acclamation Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 4:35-41

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and Resurrection

you have set us free.

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."



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, Margaret Banister.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Mark's audience

Scripture scholars are now convinced that the Gospel of Mark was the first of the four New Testament gospels to be written. It is probable that it was written at about 70 – 75 C.E. – approximately 40 years after the death of Jesus. The intended community was probably based in or around Rome and so were mostly gentile (non-Jewish) Christians. The destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by Roman forces in 70 C.E. was one of the signs that led this community to believe that the world was coming to an end and that the Messiah was about to return.

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.