



# 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.

## 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 30 JUNE 2024

#### Parish Staff

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

#### Presbytery & Parish Office

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#### Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am-1pm

#### Other Contacts

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0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or  
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Gresford      Faith Banister  
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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...

As I mentioned last weekend, I will be on Annual Leave during August, departing on Friday 2 August and returning on Friday 30 August. This is the standard canonical leave allowance each year for all members of the clergy, and taking of which ensures that they (and there I) are able to continue in their ministry.

While it would be wonderful to be able to find a priest to cover the regular array of happenings, the ability to do so has become increasingly difficult in more recent years.

In the absence of a 'supply', some priests choose not to take any leave, effectively working without a break often for years on end. Such "dedication" is not sustainable, and a consistent lack of leave will impact on the physical, psychological and spiritual health of members of the clergy.

And, from my own perspective, I know that if I do not regularly take my annual leave, my health does not fare well.

And so, even in the absence of a supply priest, I am going on holidays.

While I am absent for the four weekends of August, each of our local worshipping communities will continue to gather at their usual time to celebrate a Sunday Celebration of the Word. Communion will not be distributed at these, with the community being nourished from the first table, the Table of Word, rather than at both.

For those parishioners who would prefer to attend Mass rather than a Sunday Celebration of the Word, the closest options would be:

Raymond Terrace	5.30pm Saturday
	9.30am Sunday
Paterson	9.30am Sunday

Additional options are also available within the

### **Dungog Combined Churches Service**

The next Combined Churches Service in Dungog will take place **TONIGHT** 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.

## **from the perspective**

### **of Jairus**

*What a whirlwind of emotions Jairus must have gone through. His daughter was sick and getting worse but Jesus had left the region and travelled across the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly, Jairus heard that Jesus had returned! He raced to Jesus and begged him to save his daughter. What joy when Jesus set out to do so! But Jesus was slowed by the crowd and then came to a complete stop and spoke to some woman. Didn't he know this was urgent? Then the news came that the little girl was dead – no need to hurry now. Finally, unbelievable relief and joy: Jesus raises the little girl and reunites her with her parents.*

# *Rejoice!!*

### **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](http://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.

### **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!

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

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

Maitland Catholic Parishes, the details for which can be found on their website by going to [www.maitlandcatholicparishes.org.au](http://www.maitlandcatholicparishes.org.au).

There will be no weekday Masses while I am away though if parishioners would like to gather at the usual time to listen to the Word of God and praying together. That's entirely up to you and what you would like to do.

In the event that a funeral celebration is required, the clergy of Maitland Catholic Parishes have agreed to assist as and when required. I have made this information known to our local funeral providers, but the contact number if needed is 0428 220 997.

The Parish Office will continue to be open for the usual support and services, while other arrangements will continue 'as usual' as far as possible.

Again, as mentioned last week, I'll be including a series of written 'reports' in the bulletin in the weeks leading up to my departure, all for your reflection and consideration in preparation for the parish assemblies later in the year.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew



## **Have you thought?**

### **What's my haemorrhage?**

*In the gospel story, the woman suffers a serious physical complaint – an unending flow of blood – that must have left her physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausted. For many of us there is some aspect of our lives that has an almost equally draining effect as the physical complaint of the woman. In effect, some aspect of our lives may be haemorrhaging – a constant outflow of energy and emotion that prevents us from being all that we might be. It may be an unhealthy relationship; an addiction; a lack of confidence; a grudge; a lack of emotional control.*

### **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.

## Homily by Fr Michael Tate

### ***Subverting the Social Order***

This is a story of subversion, subversion of the social order turned upside down by the healing presence of Jesus.

Jesus is approached by one of the local elite: a male, with a name [Jairus], prestige, an advocate for his twelve year old daughter, and he knows the correct procedure, adopting a deferential posture.

Jesus hears his request to heal his daughter and sets off.

Jesus' progress is stopped in its tracks by a contrary figure: a woman, with no name, voiceless, because of her haemorrhaging blood ostracised from social and religious contacts, and she adopted the utterly wrong approach. She touched Jesus, or at least his clothing, which risked contaminating him with her 'uncleanness'.

But she was immediately healed. This voiceless, marginalised woman was healed at every level of her person: physical, social and religious. She could now mix with people and attend the synagogue.

All the woman needed to do was get close and have faith that Jesus would restore her to a life worthy of a human being.

By the way, that is the best way to approach confession.

You or I should come into the confessional conscious of whatever is making one ill-at-ease with God because of something one has done or failed to do. Bring that dis-ease into close proximity to Jesus as the Divine Physician. The confessional is 'the hem of his cloak'.

But to return to the Gospel. Jesus stops and looks around: 'Who touched me?' The disciples are unreconstructed supporters of the social status quo. They regard stopping to find out who touched Jesus as an unfortunate and rather misguided interruption to the important task of continuing on to the house of the local leader, the male at the top of the social scale who had so properly pleaded on behalf of his daughter.

But, Jesus does stop and one of the most beautiful moments in the Gospel ensues.

The woman gets her voice back, tells Jesus it was she who had broken all the taboos and touched him. He turns to her and says:

'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.'

He, Our Lord Jesus Christ, calls the outcast who had endured social isolation for twelve years,

'Daughter'. This woman heard this term of relationship, this term of affection and care, 'Daughter', from the lips of Jesus. Can you imagine the liberating and joyful effect of hearing that title of honour and love from Our Lord?

Yes, Jesus went on to heal the little girl. But unlike the disciples he did not regard stopping as an interruption. It was a priority which totally subverted the expectations and the power structures of that society.

We are not Hindus. A caste system within the church is utterly at odds with this gospel. The Church is distorted if power, prestige, pedigree or wealth give one special status. The saving and healing presence of Jesus must always be allowed to be radically egalitarian.

This is good for you and for me when we need the presence of Jesus, the Divine Physician. You and I are a priority when we need that healing presence.

I want you to close your eyes for a moment. Bring to mind whatever it is that is making you ill-at-ease with God. Something you have done or failed to do you now experience as a dis-ease in part of your personality.

Then say with the woman of today's gospel: 'I will touch the outer garment of my Lord and Saviour. I believe he will forgive me and heal me.' Say it with her profound confidence in divine power.

Keep your eyes closed and hear Him say to you:

*'My son [or] my daughter, my son [or] my daughter*  
your faith has made you well;  
go in peace and be healed of your dis-ease.'

© 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.

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.

## Today's Liturgy:

**Scripture Readings:** **1st Reading** Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; **2nd Reading** 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15;  
**Gospel** Mark 5:21-24, 35-43.

**Responsorial Psalm:** I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death and brought us life through his Gospel. Alleluia!

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

## The Parish Diary

Monday 1 July

Tuesday 2 July

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 3 July

*Feast of St Thomas*

Thursday 4 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 5 July

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 6 July

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 7 July

*14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Monday 8 July

Tuesday 9 July

**NO MASS** Fr Andrew attending an online training course.

Wednesday 10 July

Thursday 11 July

*Memorial of St Benedict*

**NO MASS** Fr Andrew attending an online training course.

Friday 12 July

Saturday 13 July

Sunday 14 July

*15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass next Sunday (7 July). 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:

### 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.

**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."*

*Alleluia!*

## 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).