



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.

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

7 JULY 2024

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
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Presbytery & Parish Office

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Parish 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.

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



POSTPONED: Bishop Michael & Summer Hill

In light of the continuing rain and thus the state of the grounds around Sacred Heart Church at Summer Hill, the decision has been taken to not go ahead with Bishop Michael's visit scheduled for Sunday 14 July.

We will seek another date for Bishop Michael to join us at Summer Hill once the grounds have firmed up, hopefully later in the year.

The state of the grounds will also see the Mass on 14 July transferred to St Helen's, East Gresford, to commence at 11.30am.



Have you thought?

Brothers of Jesus

The reference to the brothers of Jesus has caused a lot of controversy in the past and continues to do so. One opinion, now regarded as heresy, was that these brothers were the younger children of Mary and Joseph. Another argument, grounded in the apocryphal gospels of Peter and James, maintains that they were Joseph's sons by an earlier marriage. The view generally held is that they were actually cousins of Jesus. The problem appears to arise because of a problem in translation from one language to another. The original Aramaic word was translated into a Greek word for brothers, or brethren.

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.

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

St Joseph's School, Dungog—Opportunity

St Joseph's School, Dungog, is starting the journey of renewing its Mission and Vision Statements, an integral part of ensuring the Catholicity of the school.

A school mission statement is a sincere work that relays the purpose and guiding principles of a school. The statement is concise, with each word having purpose and adding value. Mission statements are the "why" a school exists and what the school community aims to achieve. The message must represent consensus and collaboration from all stakeholder viewpoints and needs.

A school vision statement essentially outlines where you are heading as a school, holistically. It is a dream, a hope, an aspiration. It takes the strengths of the school community and projects that into the full realisation of what you could eventually become. Therefore, it is your hope for the school, which ultimately embodies your hope for the future of all pupils and the outcomes they will be able to obtain.

Parishioners are invited to make a contribution to this process by answering questions in a survey, which can be accessed online by going to: forms.office.com/r/Av2xW8HF3B?origin=lprLink.

If you do not have internet access and would still like to make a contribution, please arrange to visit Fr Andrew in the Presbytery and he will assist you to do so.

Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while also upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Maitland-Newcastle Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to seek an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information, please phone the Maitland-Newcastle Office of the Tribunal on 49791370 or email tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au.

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.

For Your Consideration...

In a couple of weeks it will be two years since I took up my current role as first Administrator and then Parish Priest of the two parishes of Dungog and Gresford. I say, 'two parishes', because there are still separate canonical parishes even though we do a lot of things as a joint enterprise.

The two parishes have different histories, different stories, different outlooks, and yet we share much in common—not least a common parish priest. Our histories and our stories have started to coalesce into a common history and common story.

However, despite the coming together in many ways, we remain separate canonically—and the implications of that separateness has serious, real world ramifications that continue...and will continue unless decisions are made to change them.

Some of those ramifications include maintaining separate bank accounts and financial records, which are further complicated by the need to share certain costs equitably between the two separate parishes. Along with bank accounts and financial records, there are separate BAS statements that need to be prepared and submitted (which is thankfully undertaken by the diocese's finance secretariat on our behalf).

Alongside these aspects of financial governance we also have separate planned giving programs, with two distinct sets of envelopes, requiring two distinct sets of records, and, once a year, two distinct versions of tax receipts for those who request them.

While not onerous in and of themselves, Kerry and I need to be vigilant in making sure to keep things straight!

We also need to maintain separate parish sacramental registers, both online and physical, prepare separate annual statistical returns to the diocese, pay separate diocesan contributions, maintain separate insurance programs, etc., etc. Everything administrative in nature is effectively doubled to ensure we keep the current separate canonical identities, well, separate.

There are probably good reasons for keeping the two parishes separate at one point, possibly in the hope that it might one day be possible for each of them to once again have their own resident parish priest.

If we are realistic, however, I think we have to recognise that such a possibility is not going to be possible—particularly in light of the diminishing number of priests available to staff the parishes of our diocese

So what I think we should consider—and discuss together at a parish assembly later in the year (and yes, there would need to be two separate ones)—is the possibility of formally merging the two parishes of Gresford and Dungog into one parish.

The process for doing so involves petitioning the Bishop to issue a decree that creates a 'new' parish from the existing two parishes, and he is obliged to consult his Council of Priests about the petition before making a decision to say 'yes' or 'no'.

Although two separate parish assemblies must meet to discuss and discern our future is requires, if the outcome is to seek a merger a joint petition is possible.

A possible merger of our two parishes will not change the way we currently operate—except in the matter of administration and similar requirements. Nor would a possible merge change our future endeavours. In one sense, a merger merely recognises and makes 'real' what is already the reality from which we operate, while easing the associated administrative burden.

The question of parish identity is often raised when talk of merging parishes is raised, with a genuine fear that one or other of the parishes would effectively 'cease to be'. Such concerns are very understandable, particularly in parishes with long histories.

A simple 'solution' presents itself. Our current logo (see the front page) features the name of "Dungog & Gresford Parishes", recognising the names of both parishes that are currently separate but united. The deletion of 'es' from the end of that name so it would read "Dungog & Gresford Parish" would mean that each 'former' parish is still recognised while the 'reality' of a new single parish is easily acknowledged.

I mention this only by way of addressing one of the many issues that generally arise when talk of mergers come up. That and all the other issues associated with a possible merger can be raised, discussed, debated, and discerned.

In the meantime, I simply ask you to start praying and considering the way forward for our two parishes, and to calmly and respectfully discuss the matter amongst yourself in the lead up to the parish assemblies that will take place later in the year (sometime in November probably). While I am more than happy to discuss this matter with anyone, it may be better for discussions requiring my input to be reserved for those assemblies so that everyone hears the same thing at once.

Fr Andrew

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: **1st** Ezekiel 2:2-5; **2nd** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; **Gospel** Mark 6:1-6.

Responsorial Psalm: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

The Parish Diary (for the next fortnight...)

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 @ **East Gresford**

Monday 15 July

Memorial of St Bonaventure

Tuesday 16 July

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 17 July

Thursday 18 July

NO MASS Fr Andrew attending Safeguarding meeting in East Maitland,

Friday 19 July

Saturday 20 July

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 21 July

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass TODAY (7 July). Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Lyn Kerr.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In July:

Kathleen Kealy, Veronica Trappel, Peter Fortunaso, Vera Pritchard, Maisie Atkins, George Allen, Alan Hinton, Eileen Sandiland, Daphny Massey, Paul Murphy, Lex Loudon, Samuel Rizzuto, Marie Garner, Maurice Garner, Ross Young, Pat Hartcher, Joyce Clark, Helen Hall, John Diver, Joan Mitchell, Kevin Murphy, Bert Preece, Nola Dooley, Tom Banister.

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, Neville Barry, Susan Barlow, Phillip French, Allwyn Gippel, Margaret Banister.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July: "Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope."

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.

