



# 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.

## 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 14 JULY 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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email [vip\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:vip_1@bigpond.com)

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0427 536 248

#### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School  
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420  
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

P: (02) 4992 1377

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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.



### **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.

### **Weekend Retreat—Women of the Well**

The Women of the Well retreats are designed to help you create space in your life to listen to the spirit's whisper and connect with other like-minded women.

The next Women of the Well retreat will be happening at The Hermitage, Mittagong from 9 to 11 August. We want to ensure our retreats are accessible to all, as such we set our fees to cover just our costs for your food & accommodation.

Thanks to our partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph, we are able to offer these subsidised rates to first-time retreatants. If this cost is a barrier, please contact us.

The cost for first time retreatants is \$125; for returning retreatants, \$350.

If you would like more information visit the website [www.womenofthewell.com.au](http://www.womenofthewell.com.au), or send us an email at [info@womenofthewell.com.au](mailto:info@womenofthewell.com.au).

### **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](https://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.

# Alleluia!

## **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**

### **Mission and Ministry**

*This seems an odd event in the narrative of the Gospel of Mark. The twelve are sent out and we are told that they 'cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them'. After a diversion to explain the fate of John the Baptist the gospel picks up again by simply stating that the disciples returned and reported all they had done. There is no explanation of why Jesus sent them out; no indication of how long they travelled; no evidence of what reception they were given. This was a prelude to the later ministry that would be performed; it was an instruction by Jesus for how the mission was to be carried on.*

### **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.

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...**

A very significant task that we need to face as we move forward is to give serious consideration to the stewardship of the assets that we, as parish communities, own.

We are not alone in this task with many other parishes also needing to undertake a review of what is owned, what needs to be owned, and what to do with the difference.

Such a task should be an ongoing process and not a 'once for all' undertaking so that we can ensure both our financial viability and the good stewardship of resources for the sake of the mission.

In the canonical discipline of the Catholic Church, each parish is meant to maintain a 'stable patrimony', which, at a basic minimum, is most often understood as having a church building and a house for the priests appointed to the parish.

We are blessed in both of our two parishes to be able to meet this minimum and to have other physical assets that provide resources (income) to enable us to be about the work we are called to be about.

However, there are some assets that the parishes own which could be considered surplus to the need to maintain a 'stable patrimony' and which are therefore 'wasted' to some degree.

In both parishes, I am speaking of some vacant land adjacent to the churches at Gresford and at Clarence Town, which may have been acquired for very valid historical reasons but which, in 2024, may not need to continue to be held.

What I would like us as parish communities to consider is the future of those parcels of land, whether we, as parish communities, need to maintain ownership, and, if the answer is no, what might we look to do with them so we can ensure good stewardship.

To be very clear upfront, I am NOT suggesting we sell or other divest anything we currently own and which are used 'for the sake of the mission'.

I AM suggesting that we take a serious look at what we need to keep 'for the sake of the mission', what is surplus to that need, and what we might do with the surplus 'for the sake of the mission'.

At the assemblies planned for the later in the year, I do not propose that a final decision be made on the future of surplus assets (if, indeed, it is determined that we have surplus assets).

What I would hope to come from those gatherings would be a decision towards a

willingness to simply explore what might be possible, and then entrust that exploration to a working party that can look at what we own, what we need to own, and develop proposals for the broader parish community to consider at some future parish assembly.

Decisions around current parish assets and what might be done with them are not easily reached and most certainly should not be rushed. The most important thing we have to do, however, is to start the process, not knowing in some sense what the outcome might be.

And that is what I hope we can discuss at our assemblies in November: making a decision to review our assets and thus start a journey which will unfold from there.

If anyone believes there are other assets owned by the parishes that might be beneficial to review, then I would encourage them to raise it so that our review can be thorough and orderly.

Fr Andrew



# **Have you thought?**

## **Sent in pairs**

*It is interesting that the disciples were sent out in pairs. It is indicative of the fact that such ministry is difficult to accomplish alone. When we are engaged in ministry it is important that we seek and provide mutual support. Whether it is a hospitality ministry at Sunday Mass, visiting the sick, or a street ministry to the homeless, we will feel more confident and willing to reach out to others if we know that we are sharing that ministry and are supported by others. It is important to invite others to join in our ministry but it is also important to make sure that we support them as they enter into it.*

## **Electronic Banking Details**

BSB: 066 739  
A/c Name: Catholic Development Fund  
Reference: Your Surname and/or Envelope No., or other reference.

Account Nos:

First collection: 10 002 9440

Second collection:

Dungog: 10 000 5170

Gresford 10 000 5173

## Today's Liturgy:

**Scripture Readings:** 1st Amos 7:12-15; 2nd Ephesians 1:3-14; **Gospel** Mark 6:7-13.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

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

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead...)

15th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 15 July

Memorial of St Bonaventure

11am Funeral for Lyn Kerr @ Dungog

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

## 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."*

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

## 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.

## Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (21 July) back in our Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

# Rejoice!!

## 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).