



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.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

4 AUGUST 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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0427 536 248

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.



Bishop Michael's Anniversary

Bishop Michael Kennedy will be celebrating the occasion of his 25th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at a concelebrated Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton commencing at 11am on Wednesday 14 August 2024. The Mass will also acknowledge other priest and deacon jubilarians. All welcome.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

The Body of Christ

Christ is present in the Eucharist in many forms: in the people gathered; in the celebrating priest; in the Word proclaimed; and in the consecrated bread and wine – the Body and Blood of Christ. In relation to receiving Christ through the reception of communion, St Augustine wrote, 'Be what you see, and receive what you are.' We not only receive the Body of Christ through Eucharist, we are called to be the Body of Christ because of what we have received; and we receive the Body of Christ because we are already part of the Body of Christ.

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.

Change to Diocesan Library Hours

The Diocesan Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor St, Newcastle West on Mondays and Fridays (10am-5pm) and on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month (10am-2pm).

More information about the Diocesan Library—including access to the online catalogue—visit the Library's [website](#).

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, or send us an email at info@womenofthewell.com.au.

Congratulations to David Treloar

It was announced recently that David Treloar, currently Assistant Principal of St Joseph's, Dungog, has been appointed as Principal of Our Lady Victories School, Shortland from the beginning of the 2025 school year. Our warmest congratulations to David who will be missed by the St Joseph's community. Our loss is Shortland's gain!

The process of finding the next Assistant Principal for St Joseph's, Dungog will begin shortly.

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.

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=IprLink.

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.

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 speaking with a parishioner recently, I mentioned that I had been thinking about arranging a parish-based pilgrimage to Ireland. His suggestion was that I write about it in the bulletin, giving plenty of notice for parishioners who might like to consider joining such a trip.

Least people think it's happening soon, the timing of the proposed pilgrimage is August/September 2026!

I had the wonderful privilege of undertaking a similar pilgrimage in conjunction with the Catholic Schools of the Diocese back in 2018, and have always hoped that I might be able to return one day.

That experience, back in 2018, saw the group arrive in Dublin and then travel in the footsteps of Venerable Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

Alongside the sites in and around Dublin that were associated with Catherine, the pilgrims spent the remainder of the time visiting sites of particular cultural and spiritual significance.

While the proposed pilgrimage could certainly visit some of the Catherine McAuley sites, I would be hoping that they could spend more time in and around sites that speak to the spiritual heritage of Ireland—and yes, some of the more tourist centres as well.

In addition to the focus on Ireland, there would be some 'extensions' options developed that could see people head off to other destinations after the time in Ireland concludes. This could include such places as Rome, Fatima, and Lourdes. It is also possible for travellers to make their own arrangements for post-pilgrimage travel.

The purpose of this particular column—again, as suggested by our intrepid fellow parishioner—was to bring the possibility to everyone's attention, and to gauge the interest levels before I head off and start the planning process with some of the firms that specialise in arranging pilgrimages.

If this is something that might appeal to you—or to someone you know—please let me know, either by dropping me an email or contacting the Parish Office.

There's no obligation attached to should you express an interest—saying 'yes' at this point is only telling me that I should do some more work and develop some concrete information.

Give it some thought and let me know if you're interested.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Men's Breakfast

St Joseph's Community Centre (140 Wangi Road), Toronto is hosting a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 10 August from 8am to 10am. The morning is informal, social and occasionally entertaining—and is all about connection!

Please RSVP to Phil McWilliam (0408 880 408) or Colin Gwynne (0409 047 644).

Art & Spirituality Workshop

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

The Workshop will be held on Friday 13 September (9am—3pm) at Kilaben Bay Community Centre at a cost of \$25 per person. Register at bit.ly/48atjG2.

An Afternoon of Musical Entertainment

The Dungog Mothers' Union is hosting an afternoon of musical entertainment featuring students from Dungog High School on **Thursday 8 August** in Christ Church Anglican Hall (Dowling St).

The entertainment will start at 2pm, and the stall will be opening at 1.30pm. The cost of admission is \$10 (includes afternoon tea), with all proceeds from the afternoon going towards the Mothers' Union overseas and outreach programs.

RSVP to Margaret Flannery (4992 1839 or 0427 921 839).

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: 100 029 440

Second collection:

Dungog: 100 005 170

Gresford 100 005 173

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: 1st Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; 2nd Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; **Gospel** Mark 6:24-35.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

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

18th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 5 August

Tuesday 6 August

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Wednesday 7 August

Thursday 8 August

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross

Friday 9 August

Saturday 10 August

Feast of St Lawrence

Sunday 11 August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Sunday Celebration of the Word @
Clarence Town

9.30am Sunday Celebration of the Word @
Dungog

11am Sunday Celebration of the Word @
East Gresford

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August:

Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Jean Kenney, Shirley Wade, Allen Kearns, Tony Townsend, Molly Turner.

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, Christine Elliott, Faith Banister.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Bread

For thousands of years, bread has been a staple part of the human diet in many cultures. It is no accident that the image of Jesus as bread makes such a significant appearance in the gospel of John. For the Jews, like other Ancient Near Eastern cultures, bread was a vital mainstay of their diet. In the Bible, the word 'bread' often simply means all food – it was that important! For many, regular access to bread did equate to life. Bread also played a crucial role in religious practices, especially the Passover meal.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August: "Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor."

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Celebration TODAY (4 August). Please stay to join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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.