



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.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B 25 AUGUST 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

Clarence Town Val Preece
0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or
email vip_1@bigpond.com

Gresford Faith Banister
0427 536 248

Parish School

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

P: (02) 4992 1377

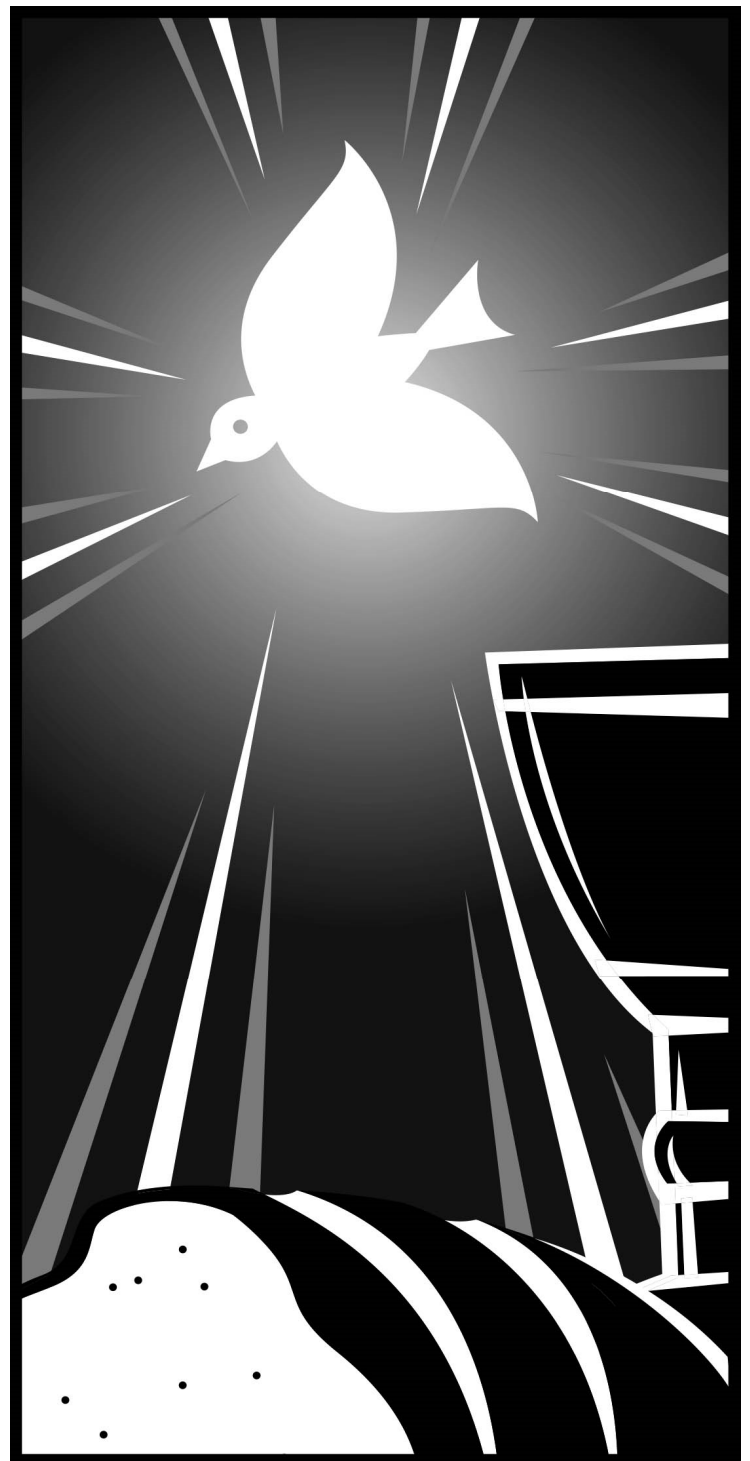
E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

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.



Perpetual Day of Remembrance

September 15, promulgated as a 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' in our diocese, marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children. The day has two aspects: one focused on supporting survivors and the other on the prayer of the whole church.

This year Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 15 September. As a people of faith, we can pray for a change of heart as the ground of hope for a safer future for all.

Special prayer resources are available online at bit.ly/3Me5KUj. Every person is invited to use and help disseminate as widely as possible the resource for Individuals and households.

Season of Creation—Creation Sings

All in the Newcastle, Hunter and Manning community are invited to gather to sing in praise and wonder of creation as part of marking the Season of Creation. In the spirit of community choirs, we will gather on Saturday 21 September in Sacred Heart Cathedral, between 2pm and 4pm, to learn a song, pray together and then share afternoon tea.

You are also invited to bring a cutting of a favourite plant to exchange during the time of prayer. If you would like to come along, please register by going to bit.ly/3M16gVw.

Those who love taking photos of nature can join the Season of Creation Photography initiative by submitting images to be displayed during Creation Sings. Please submit your image or images to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au by 16 September.

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](#).

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.

Christian Initiation Formation Day

'*Tilling the Soil of Christian Initiation*' is a Formation Day for all parishioners, particularly those who are involved in the Ministry of Christian Initiation with Adults, Children of a Catechetical Age, and Children and their Families via the Sacraments of Initiation.

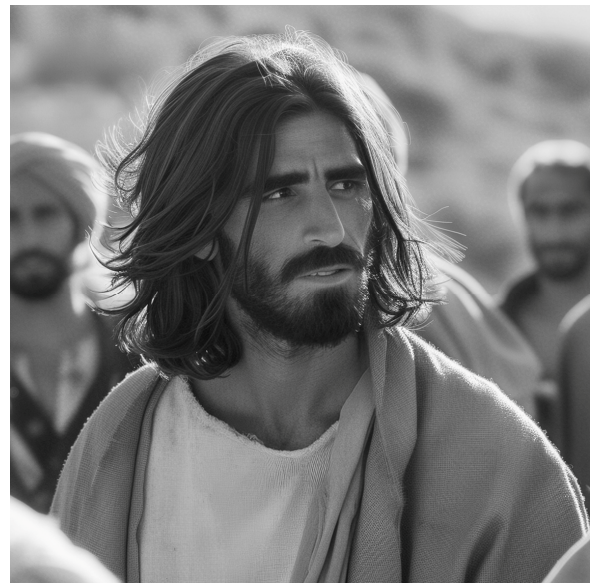


You are invited to gather with friends and colleagues from other parishes in the Toohey Room on the Cathedral Campus on Saturday 14 September from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

This is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the foundations of this important ministry, to share our wisdom and questions and to get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Details and registration via the QR Code.

For enquiries or registration assistance contact Sharon Murphy (phone 4979 1134, or email sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au)



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.

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

I remember seeing a James Bond film, I think set in Haiti. Anyway, it was where Voodoo religion was practised. The Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence.

There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living grave-dominated existences: people living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their human life, marking the annihilation of their humanity.

But our ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a destiny far beyond the zombie-like, grave-dominated lives of the Living Dead. The human heart yearns to hear of a different reality.

Where will we hear that word? From whom will we hear that word?

We certainly won't hear it from the various spruikers of the many addictions which temporarily dull the fear of the grave: alcohol in excess, activism without pause, consumerism: 'shop til you drop', drop into the grave.

The vendors of those forms of slavery speak beguiling words but they are like the Voodoo priests and leave people among the Living Dead. What of the various spiritual gurus and maestros? We can easily dismiss the obvious leaders of Satanic cults or even astrology taken seriously.

But what of the more benevolent figures such as the Buddha or the Dalai Lama? What word do they offer about death? How do they speak of the grave?

They teach that the great task is to meditate until one's individuality is extinguished, absorbed undifferentiated into the great Ocean of Being.

But we have heard a voice which speaks a contrary truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful, more human reality.

That voice says that you and I, individually, personally are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy.

Whose is that voice? The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Where do we hear it? We hear that voice from within the Church, that Church which so frustrates and disillusioned me at times but which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries.

It has preserved and transmitted the tradition of the life of the Divine Word in the person and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

That Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us so that we could be drawn into conversation with The Divine.

Hearing that Word in the Gospel, taking that Word into myself in Holy Communion, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death.

I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

That is why when lesser gods tempt me, that is why when I hear the siren song: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I answer with St Peter, I answer with the successor of St Peter, I answer in the company of others like you and like the billions of faithful over twenty centuries:

'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

© 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.

Alleluia!

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

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 Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18; 2nd Ephesians 5:21-32; **Gospel** Mark 6:60-69.

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.. Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation When we eat this Bread and Drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

LIVING GOSPEL

Message and Medium

We live in a world that is saturated by advertising and marketers trying to persuade us to think certain things, want certain things and even act in certain ways. At times the message and the medium of the message blur and it's not always clear where one stops and the other begins. For Christian people the medium – the person – IS the message (or at least should be!). We are called to live what we believe. That can be tough at times, especially in our modern world, but the challenge comes from the example Jesus gave.

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.

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

21st Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 26 August

Tuesday 27 August

Memorial of St Monica

Wednesday 28 August

Memorial of St Augustine

Thursday 29 August

Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist

Friday 30 August

Saturday 31 August

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 1 September

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

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 Mass next Sunday (1 September). Please bring a plate to share and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Parishes of Dungog & Gresford hold that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.

In line with the Safeguarding Policy of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, our parishes have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding all who interact with the parishes through our activities, ministries and services, especially children and adults at risk.