



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.

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

8 SEPTEMBER 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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Gresford Faith Banister
0427 536 248

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.

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



National Police Remembrance Service

This year Bishop Michael Kennedy is hosting the National Police Remembrance Service in Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Friday 27 September**.

Gathered police will march to the Cathedral beginning at 9.30am, with the Service beginning at 10am.

Members of the diocesan community are welcomed and encouraged to gather for this Service as an expression of our support and prayer for the members of the NSW Police Force, and particularly those who have died in the last twelve months.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

Combined Churches Service—Dungog

Dungog Parish will be hosting the next Combined Churches Service on **Sunday 29 September** starting at **6.30pm**. The service will be followed by a supper in the Parish Hall.

Please come along to join with our Christian brothers and sisters from Dungog in prayer and worship and in Christian fellowship over supper.

Please also bring a plate to share for supper.

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.

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.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (15 September) in our Parish Hall.

Please bring a plate to share and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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](#).

Free To A Good Home

Located in our Parish Hall are two items that are no longer needed: a piano (in need of tuning), and an organ and stool. They are 'free to a good home'; they just need to be collected and removed. If these items are something you might be interested in acquiring, then please contact Fr Andrew or the Parish Office.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford acknowledge the Worimi and Wonnarua peoples on whose traditional lands we live and work, and their continuing deep and abiding attachment to the land.

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.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

The Sunday on or before 15 September each year was promulgated by our late Bishop Bill Wright as 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday' in our diocese, and marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children.

In his letter to the diocesan community this year, Bishop Michael writes:

"To remember" can be a deeply spiritual and religious action. In the Old Testament, God's chosen people were often exhorted to remember the many good things that God had done for them as well as remembering their own sins and transgressions. Remembering God's goodness, both to ourselves as individuals and collectively as his people, produces gratitude and hope. Remembering our transgressions, both our own personal transgressions and the transgressions of the collective Church, produces redemptive sorrow and genuine conversion.

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance 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.

By consciously keeping this day as a day of special prayer and remembrance we embrace the opportunity to allow the Light of Christ to draw us into a future that does not hide from the past but which is one that is different to what was.

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.

Upcoming CTC Events

The Catholic Theological College (Melbourne) is a teaching institution of the University of Divinity.

Upcoming events at CTC include:

- Information Session for Educators
- Information Session for Prospective Students
- Engaging Your Faith Online sessions

For more information visit ctc.edu.au/news-and-events or ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar.



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



Vinnies Hunter Are Looking For Volunteers

The St Vincent de Paul Society ('Vinnies') are looking for members and volunteers across the Maitland-Newcastle area in a range of roles:

- Administration and Reception volunteers (*in Maitland and Newcastle*)
- Frontline Community Support (Emergency Relief) Volunteers and Conference Members
- Inbound Call Centre phone operators (*Newcastle*)
- Hamper and pantry packing and sorting
- Vinnies Van crew volunteers and drivers (drivers must be 25+)
- Retail Volunteers

Many of the opportunities come with flexible hours to suit volunteers of all skill levels, and all the training and mentoring required is provided.

If you're interested or just want some additional information call 0490 255 100 or send an email to maitland.newcastle@vinnies.org.au.

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

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)

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: **1st** Isaiah 35:4-7; **2nd** James 2:1-5; **Gospel** Mark 7:31-37.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

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

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

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 9 September

Tuesday 10 September

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 11 September

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 12 September

Anniversary of the Dedication of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 13 September

Memorial of St John Chrysostom

NO MASS Fr Andrew facilitating the delivery of liturgical formation

Saturday 14 September

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 15 September

Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In September: Annie & Brian Maurer, Peggy Brennan, Godfrey Barry, Tony O'Hearn, Fr Brian Quillinan, Pat Byron, Marjory Neilson, Ivy Hinton, Arthur Sonter, Ron Neilson, Fr Peter Quirk, Tony & Mary Maurer, Kath Morrow, Frances Amy Young, Rowland Young, Dennis Melmouth, Dot Shurrey, Mary Moylan, Norm Barham, Eileen Godwin, Warren Trappel, Lachlan Tindall, Brian Byron, Margaret Moule, John Melmeth, Beryl Cooper, Paul Evans, Peter Byron, Heather Dawn Atkins, Sr Pat McGinty RSM.

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, Joanne Hancock, Pam O'Malley Jones.

Baptisms This Week

We welcome **Eleanor Lee**, together with her family and friends, as we celebrate her Baptism during the 9.30am Mass today at St Mary's, Dungog.

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.

2024-2025 Social Justice Statement

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has now released its 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement. The Statement, entitled *Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*, looks at "the signs of the times in the light of Gospel, sees the violence and asks why the world is as it is and what is needed for there to be peace."

A copy of the Statement can be downloaded from the 'Resources' tab of our website, and I commend it to your prayerful reading and conversation.

Fr Andrew

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September:

"Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit."