



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.

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

6 OCTOBER 2024

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

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.



DATE CLAIMER—Dungog Christmas Lunch

The Dungog Parish Christmas Lunch will take place on **Sunday 1 December** in the Parish Hall.

More details will follow, but claim the date now and add it to your diary so you don't miss out!

New Fence At Dungog

Beginning this Tuesday, 8 October, the current wooden fence that runs behind St Mary's and the Presbytery will be replaced with the same kind of fence that runs around the remainder of the school grounds.

The new fence will result both in better security for the school grounds and the removal of the hazard of an old fence for our students. And it will also look good!

Historical Context

Writ of dismissal

*In Jewish tradition, a man could divorce his wife but a woman could not divorce her husband – she could only seek a court ruling to force her husband to divorce her. The grounds for divorce under biblical law were *ervat devar* – meaning 'some fault or indecency'. One legal tradition held that *ervat devar* applied exclusively to adultery while another applied it to anything that was 'offensive' to the husband. To divorce his wife, a man simply had to renounce his wife and ask a court to authorise a writ, or bill, of dismissal – his wife had no chance to challenge his decision.*

Celebration of Confirmation

The celebration of Confirmation for those children currently completing their journey to full Christian Initiation will take place on **Friday 25 October** at 6.30pm, with Bishop Michael presiding.

As Confirmation needs to be celebrated before the celebration of First Communion, those children who are not yet part of the process will now need to wait until the 2025 cohort, the details of which will be made available early in the new year.

New Assistant Principal Appointed

Parishioners would be aware that the Assistant Principal of St Joseph's School, Dungog has been appointed as Principal of Our Lady of Victories School, Shortland from the beginning of the 2025 school year.

Following a selection process that was concluded a few weeks ago, and following the completion of the relevant processes, Nicholas Hughes has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal of St Joseph's. Nicholas will take up the appointment for the beginning of the 2025 school year.

Nicholas is currently on the staff of St Aloysius' School, Chisholm, where in addition to being a classroom teacher, Nicholas is the Religious Education Coordinator and has also been the Acting Assistant Principal.

Nicholas and his family are parishioners of Raymond Terrace. We look forward to having him join our school staff next year.

New Rosters For Mass at Dungog

A new liturgical ministries roster for the 9.30am Mass at Dungog will begin on the first Sunday of October. Copies are available on the back table and a copy is also on the noticeboard.

The roster will be renewed again in February 2025 (to start in March) so please contact Fr Andrew if you would like to be added or removed from the next Roster.

We are particularly in search of parishioners who would be able to assist with the counting of collections as part of the Roster—again, please speak with Fr Andrew if you feel you can assist.

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.

A Pastoral Note...

Following on from my column last week, and because I was asked, here's some further information about the proposed changes to the administration of clergy remuneration that was discussed (again) at the recent 'Parish Viability' meeting I attended.

I have written previously about the remuneration of the clergy, what is meant by that, and the various sources the contribute to the total value each priest member of the diocese receives. There is no proposal to change that as part of the ongoing discussions.

What will change is what happens to those amounts that find their way into the First Collection account, known as the Presbytery Account, that each parish (or group of parishes) operates.

Into the Presbytery Account flows the following:

- The first collection each Sunday,
- Christmas and Easter 'dues',
- 'Stole fees' for baptisms, weddings, funerals, house blessings and similar celebrations of Sacraments and sacramentals, and
- Chaplaincy fees (increasingly rare).

To this is added the interest earned on these amounts while they sit in the Presbytery Account.

As mentioned last week, the total balance of the Presbytery Account is currently remitted to the Maitland Clergy Central Fund on a quarterly basis to fund part of the remuneration of the clergy.

In other words, all that money leaves the parish and thus cannot be used to support the 'normal' operation of the parish.

Under the proposed change, how much leaves the Parish from the Presbytery Account would be based on a percentage of the total income of the Parish, both First and Second Collections, rather than on a "everything in the Presbytery Account" basis.

It is hoped that the adoption of this new model will not alleviate a significant administrative burden from parishes (as I mentioned last week) as well as having the potential to permit greater resources to remain within parishes to support their ongoing work in the mission of the Church.

The new "Clergy Sustentation Levy", as it will be called, may have benefits for smaller parishes such as ours, since anything in excess of our levied amount would remain in the parish for use in our 'normal' operations.

On a slightly selfish note, the proposed change would also mean that the role and responsibility of the MCCF Board, which I chair, would shift

away from ensuring the timely completion and submission of the current quarterly remittance—which can be significant—to ensuring the clergy remuneration is just and equitable. The amended responsibilities would not necessitate a monthly meeting, which could become quarterly or even twice yearly instead.

I hope this additional information is of some help to everyone as we move towards our Assembly in late November. As always, if anyone has any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Alleluia!

Catholic Mission Appeal

This year's Catholic Mission Appeal will take place on the weekend of Sunday 20 October, and we are invited to support the Church in Mongolia on their journey to provide more support for vulnerable people in need.

In the harsh Mongolian winter, where temperatures can dip to minus 40 degrees, survival is often difficult. On the Appeal weekend, we'll share with you the story of Chuluunbaatar, who faces the realities of homelessness on a daily basis, along with an invitation to support the provision of essential services to him and people like him.



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.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: **1st** Genesis 2:18-24; **2nd** Hebrews 2:9-11; **Gospel** Mark 10:2-16.

Responsorial Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

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

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

27th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 7 October

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Tuesday 8 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 9 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog.

Thursday 10 October

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 11 October

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 12 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 13 October

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Mass at Summer Hill

Because of continuing issues in accessing the Summer Hill Church following the earlier spate of wet weather, a decision has been taken to not attempt to go there until at least the scheduled December Mass.

In light of that, the Masses on Sunday 13 October and Sunday 10 November will revert to a Saturday evening Mass the night before.

DATE CLAIMER—Parishes Assembly

As previously mentioned—prior to my Annual Leave—a Parishes Assembly will take place this year to discuss and make decisions about a number of issues. This Assembly is tentatively set down to take place on **Saturday 30 November**. More details will follow, but claim the date now and add it to your diary.

Ordination of Deacon Solomon Okovido

Deacon Solomon Okovido will be ordained as a Priest on **Saturday 23 November 2024** in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton, commencing at **10am**. All are welcome!

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In October:

Bert Clark, Jaimie Richardson, Bonnie Hulbert, Bruce Everding, Ned Garland, Mark Bannister, Michael Wills, Fred Dickerson, Scott Bowman, Paul Brockwell, Brian Doyle, Maria Kealy, Raymond & Phyllis MacKay, Peter James McMullen, Mary Isabelle Preece, Margaret Banister, Paul Bryon, Doris Murray, Carl Nolan, Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlan. Thelma Moroney, Peter Rooke, Aileen Gornall.

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.

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass TODAY (6 October). Please stay and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October:

"Let us pray that the Church continue to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity."

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.