



# 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.

## 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 20 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au).

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



### Catholic Mission Appeal—THIS WEEKEND

This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require.

**The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.**

During World Mission Sunday we are called to "invite others to the banquet", and Catholic Mission invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia.

You can support this work by using the appeal envelope available in the churches, going online at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia), or scanning the QR code to the right. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.



**SCAN ME**



### 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.

While the celebration of Confirmation is an exciting occasion for the children and families involved, this is also an important occasion for our whole parish community.

Accordingly, it would be wonderful for as many parishioners as possible to be present to witness and celebrate this important occasion. If you're free, please come along and lend your presence and your voices to our celebration.

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.

### 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.

### 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!

### 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 parishioners of the diocesan community are invited to come together to celebrate this important occasion.

### Dr Dan White on 'Sacred Scriptures'

Would you like to discover the 'secrets' hidden in the story of the 'Prodigal Son'? Have you ever wondered how Zacchaeus' family reacted to the news of his 'encounter' with Jesus? Why did Jesus speak to the 'Woman at the Well'?

These and other fascinating insights from the Jewish culture of the time, and its impact on our understanding of Sacred Scripture, will be shared by Dr Dan White during his presentation.

Dr Dan White retired from the position of Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools in 2019 after 10 years of leadership and service.

Myall Coast Parish will host the presentation on **Wednesday 30 October** in St Stephen's Parish Hall, cnr of Maxwell and Witt Streets, Tea Gardens. The day will run from 10.30am (please arrive by 10.15) to 12 noon, and will be followed by a light lunch. Attendees are asked to bring a plate to share, together with a pen and note paper.

Please register by 25 October via email to [myallcoast.parish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:myallcoast.parish@mn.catholic.org.au).

### 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.

## Homily by Richard Leonard

One Sunday morning during Mass, the congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying submachine guns. One of the men proclaimed, 'Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ remain where you are!'

Immediately, the choir fled, altar servers fled, and most of the congregation fled. Within a few minutes, out of the two hundred strong congregation only ten people remained where they were. The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the priest and said, 'OK Father, I got rid of all the fence sitters, how about we make a start'.

It's nice to see the priest in the story remained in the Church! I would like to think that faced with such an extreme moment like this I would have the courage of my convictions, but I must admit I have my doubts.

Each Sunday by coming and celebrating the Eucharist we implicitly, and explicitly, state that we want to become like Christ. As the Gospels repeatedly tell us if we follow him in his saving love for the world then, like him, we must confront injustice, defend the rights of the poor and the oppressed to dignity, give and forgive, heal and reconcile. By saying this, we are clearly not looking for a smooth ride through life.

In concert with the whole Church what most of us have done is domesticate the hard edges of Jesus' teachings to suit our comfortable existences. And then we get a Gospel like today's. The sons of Zebedee want the best seats in the house without knowing what the admission price is going to cost. They want the glory without the gore.

Jesus teaches them, and later all the other apostles, that for his Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, requires of us to drink a cup of suffering and be baptised in a river of sacrificial love. We can't dress this teaching up, or put a good spin on it. There is no resurrection without the cross. No gain without the pain.

For most of us this challenge means doing whatever we can politically and socially to bring the values of the Gospel to bear on our different spheres of influence. But Jesus also links this challenge to the act of service. And in this regard some leaders in the Church give us mixed messages and let us off the hook.

Whatever of the patrimony of the past, today's Gospel reminds us that bishops, priests and deacons should be excellent models of the humility of service. The leadership Jesus

advocates is not monarchical or tyrannical, it is being the least, and being a servant.

The Second Vatican Council taught that leaders in the Church should be outstanding in humility, charity and simplicity of lifestyle. Some leaders are just this. Others have domesticated the hard edge of the Gospel.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that we recover a love for the hard teachings of Jesus, even though they demand so much of us, and that we have the courage to call our leaders to do likewise. These teachings are, after all, what makes us different from the Gentiles, and sort out who is actually sitting on the fence.

© Richard Leonard SJ

**Richard Leonard SJ** is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance Review

Bishop Michael has commissioned a review of the annual Perpetual Day of Remembrance. He writes:

It is now some time since my predecessor, Bishop William Wright, established the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to remember those who have suffered abuse at the hands of people who were entrusted with their protection. It is an occasion when we come together in prayer for all those affected by abuse and commit to ensuring that the past failings are never repeated.

The purpose for which this day was established remains ever important. Nevertheless, the way in which it is commemorated may be subject to change to ensure that its purpose is best achieved and that it remains meaningful.

To this end, I invite you to complete a brief survey ([P.D.R. Survey](#)) to help inform this process, so that we can make informed decisions about how the Perpetual Day of Remembrance might most effectively be commemorated into the future.

I encourage every parishioner to respond to the Bishop's invitation and contribute to this review. A small number of paper versions of the Survey are available in the churches. Completed copies can be returned directly to me. *Fr Andrew*

## Today's Liturgy:

**Scripture Readings:** 1st Isaiah 53:10-11; 2nd Hebrews 4:14-16; **Gospel** Mark 10:35-45.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all. 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...)

29th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 21 October

Tuesday 22 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 23 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog.

Thursday 24 October

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 25 October

9.30am **NO MASS**—Fr Andrew at Clergy  
Fund AGM in Newcastle.

6.30pm Confirmation @ Dungog

Saturday 26 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 27 October

30th 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.

## 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 co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity."*

## Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass TODAY (20 October) in our Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

## 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.

## The Sacraments of Penance & Anointing

The Sacraments of Penance (Reconciliation) and the Anointing of the Sick are available by contacting Fr Andrew.

# Rejoice!!

## 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.