



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.

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

27 OCTOBER 2024

Parish Staff

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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.

A Pastoral Note...

First things first.

Next Friday is All Saints Day, a day when we commemorate all those saintly figures who have gone before us in faith and are now part of the Church in the heavenly realm. While there would not normally be a morning Mass in St Mary's, Dungog on the first Friday of the month, because of the monthly Anointing Mass at Lara Aged Care, I will be an exception on this occasion because of the solemnity of the occasion.

Similarly, Mass will be celebrated at St Helen's, East Gresford on the Friday evening at 5.30pm.

Next Saturday is 'All Souls Day', and Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's, Dungog at 9.30am. I regret that with it being a Saturday I am unable to celebrate another Mass for 'All Souls Day'.

The month of November is the month when Catholics remember the faithful departed, and as we have done in the past, it would appropriate to celebrate a Mass in each of our churches across November to remember those whose funerals have been celebrated in the churches, those who are interred in our cemeteries, and those of our families and friends who have died in the last year.

I would ask each local community to decide when they might wish to celebrate this Mass and let me know. It could be celebrated as an weekday Mass or at one of our scheduled weekend Masses. I shall leave that choice to each community.

Once that decision is made, I shall add the event to the Parish calendar.

And speaking of calendars...

Our website now has a new feature—a Calendar page which displays Parish events, including our

regular Masses and other liturgical celebrations.

I will keep this calendar updated with events as I become aware of them, as well as deleting those (including weekday Masses) that are cancelled for any reason.

For those technically inclined, it is also possible to 'subscribe' to this calendar and add it to your electronic diaries. There's a button at the bottom right of the calendar that permits this option.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Congratulations to the Newly Confirmed

Our congratulations to those children from our parishes who celebrated their Confirmation last Friday evening. We look forward now to celebrating their First Communion over the coming weeks.

The 2025 journey, with all the relevant dates, will be announced early in the new year once the dates have been received from the Bishop's Office.



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.

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.

Parishes Assembly

The Parishes Assembly will take place on **Saturday 30 November**, in St Mary's Parish Hall, Dungog commencing at 9.30am and will conclude no later than 12 midday.

The items for discussion are those that have previously been advised, and these will be collated into a set of papers which will hopefully be available next weekend.

Please come along to the Assembly and help determine the future of our two parishes.

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!

Alleluia!

Catholic Mission Appeal

Catholic Mission thanks you for your generosity in supporting the Church in Mongolia and the House of Mercy.

Thanks to your kindness, people like Chuluunbaatar will have access to the support they need to help them get back on their feet. Your gift will also support a variety of Church programs around the world..

To learn more about the impact of Catholic Mission's supported by your generosity, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Here you can also sign up to their regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

**GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE**
to the banquet

If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a contribution, please do so by going to catholicmission.org.au/mongolia.

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 Michael Tate

Jericho was the last oasis-city for pilgrims making their way to Jerusalem. It was the last decent stop about 25 kilometres short of the Temple.

The closer the pilgrims got to their goal, the more beggars would congregate. In the Middle East, traditionally they sat on a cloak spread out in front of them onto which pilgrims would toss a small coin.

Bartimaeus shouted to Jesus: 'have pity on me'. The crowd at first told him to stop pestering Jesus, but he shouted all the more until Jesus stopped and called him over. And what does the Gospel then recount?

Bartimaeus *threw his cloak aside, jumped up, and came to Jesus.*

Bartimaeus could have stayed, you can stay, I can stay, sitting on the side of the road of life, content to have the security of the old familiar cloak, hoping for the occasional consolation of someone throwing us a few coins to feed our various hungers, especially of course, the deep down hunger for friendship or companionship.

Perhaps that is all that Bartimaeus initially wanted from Jesus: a *moment* of pity to him, the victim. Perhaps he didn't really want to do the gutsy thing and take a risk, the enormous risk of having his life changed forever. So, Jesus puts it to him: 'What do you want me to do for you?'

Bartimaeus answered: 'Master, let me see again again,' and he was cured of his disease and saved into a new way of living.

Our Lord offers us the same opportunity to start a new phase of life. What Jesus wants from you and from me is to get up from ground level (to 'jump up') in order to see things from a new perspective.

Our feet are still on the ground. We are still earthed. But, Jesus wants us to see things in the way he sees things.

Do you notice that if a friend wants you to focus on something at a distance, he or she will stand shoulder to shoulder with you and point you to the object he or she sees so clearly?

If we trust the friendship of our Lord and jump up and stand shoulder to shoulder with him, we can catch a glimpse of what is involved in following him on 'The Way' (the earliest name for what became Christianity).

And we know what that Way meant for Jesus and the early church, and perhaps for Bartimaeus himself. The crowd had called out to him: 'Take courage, get up, he is calling you.' Courage may be required to give up the familiar way of life,

because in our heart we know that we are not living that fully human life for which we were created and for which we are yearning.

The Holy Spirit even now is speaking to your heart: 'Take courage, get up, He is calling you.'

© 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.

Rejoice!!

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** Jeremiah 31:7-9; **2nd** Hebrews 5:1-6; **Gospel** Mark 10:46-52.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. 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...)

30th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 28 October

Feast of Sts Simon and Jude

Tuesday 29 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 30 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog.

Thursday 31 October

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 1 November

Solemnity of All Saints

9am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Saturday 2 November

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 3 November

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass next Sunday (3 November).

Please bring a plate to share, and 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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Garry Browning, Maree McCulloch.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In October:

Bert Clark, Jaimie Richardon, 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, 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.



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."