



# 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.

## 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

### 2 MARCH 2025

#### Parish Staff

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

#### Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog  
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P: (02) 4992 1477

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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  
[vpreece15@gmail.com](mailto:vpreece15@gmail.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:** 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:** 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.

#### A Pastoral Note...

This Sunday, we find ourselves on the cusp of the annual time of repentance and metanoia that we know as Lent.

Our diocese this Sunday is also marking the 'official' launch of our observance of the Jubilee Year with its focus on the virtue of Hope.

At first glance those two facts might appear to be diametrically opposed, yet I would argue that they are so intrinsically linked to be inseparable.

Our hope in the Paschal Mystery—the Death and Resurrection of Jesus—is the very thing that calls us, inspires us if you will, towards the desire to repent and change the way we live for the better (which is definition of metanoia).

And our continuing repentance and embrace of metanoia lends our hope a sharper edge, which is definitely something to be held onto during this Jubilee Year.

So since we are on the cusp of Lent, with its hope-inspired opportunity for repentance and change, let me remind everyone of some of the details of what's known as the 'pastoral precept' that go along with this time of year.

- Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. This focus helps the whole Church prepare for Easter with those who are to be baptised at that great festival.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence (i.e., refraining from meat).
- The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year.
- The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year.
- Catholics are obliged to receive holy

communion at least once each year in Australia between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Have a blessed week...

*Fr Andrew*

### **Ash Wednesday—5 March**

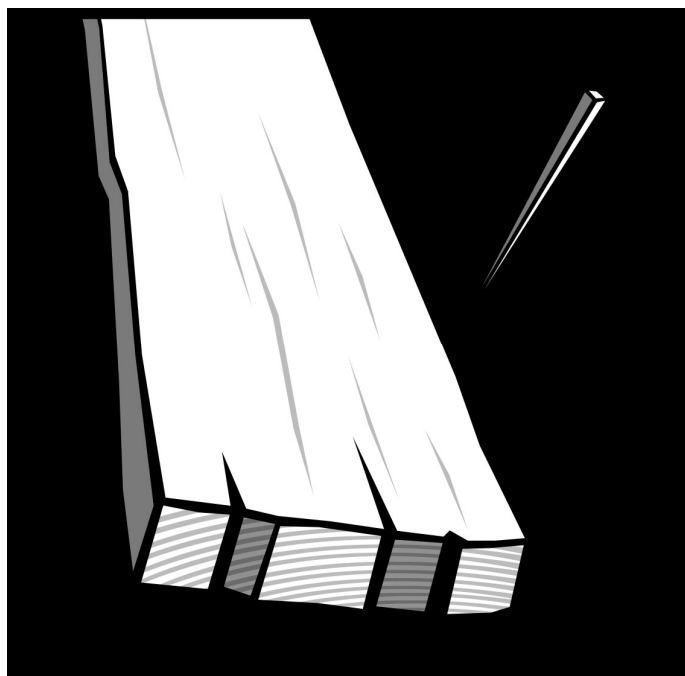
We begin our observance of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday on 5 March. While not a Holy Day of Obligation, for those who may wish to mark the beginning of Lent Mass will be celebrated:

8am	Clarence Town
9.30am	Dungog (alongside our school community)
5.30pm	East Gresford

### **Dungog Lenten Group**

This year's Lenten Group in Dungog will be held every Thursday during Lent, beginning on Thursday 6 March (the day after Ash Wednesday), in St Mary's Church beginning at 7pm.

Each gathering will consist of approximately 45 minutes of scripture reflection, discussion and prayer (using the Lenten booklets from the Diocese of Wollongong) followed by the Stations of the Cross for those who wish to stay on.



### **World Day of Prayer 2025**

You are invited to join together for the World Day of Prayer for 2025 at St Paul's Anglican Church, 21 Duke Street, Paterson, on Thursday 13 March commencing at 10.30am. All are invited, and are asked to bring lunch to share in the church hall.

This year we pray for the Cook Islands, with the theme "I made you wonderful".

### **Renewing the Dungog Rosters**

It's time for a renewal of our liturgical rosters in Dungog!

If you would like to contribute to our liturgical life in Dungog by being a Sacristan, Greeter, Reader, bringing forward the gifts, or (if it eventuates) assisting with the Chalice, please let Fr Andrew know of your desire by the end of February. If training (initial or refresher) is required, that can be arranged before the new rosters come into effect.

On the other hand, if you are currently on our roster and would like to take a break from your ministry for the next edition (which will be about six months), please let Fr Andrew know so that your wish can be honoured.

A quick email or little note would be most helpful because Fr Andrew can sometimes forget things when people tell him—especially before or after Mass. Thank you :)

### **Reintroduction of the Chalice**

My thanks to those who indicated their desire for the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice in our communities. There is sufficient numbers who wish to do so, and we will aim to reintroduce the Chalice from the **first Sunday of April**.

This will give us the opportunity to ensure that any ministers have the opportunity to receive some formation beforehand.

I would ask those parishioners who are prepared to assist in this liturgical ministry to let me know so that formation can be arranged and rosters updated where necessary.

*Fr Andrew*

### **Rite of Election—RCIA**

The Rite of Election, an important step in the journey of Christian Initiation for catechumens who will be baptised during the Easter Vigil in their parishes, will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Sunday, 9 March** (the First Sunday of Lent), commencing at 2.30pm. The liturgy will be followed by an afternoon tea.

All are welcome to join together for this joyful and wonderful occasion to witness and prayerfully support our catechumens, those people who are unbaptised and who are seeking to become a part of the Catholic Church.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by email to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au), and all enquiries and be directed to Fiona Duque by phoning 0408 895 951.

### Embracing the Jubilee Year 2025

The Jubilee Year of 2025 calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. It is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

There will be a number of special events across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and these will be advertised in good time in the bulletin.

In addition, there are a number of churches across the diocese that have been officially designated as 'pilgrimage sites':

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary, Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, East Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Scone
- Sts Patrick and Brigid Church, Cooranbong

These locations will be prepared to welcome groups and individuals on pilgrimage over the coming weeks and months—so perhaps if you'd like to make a pilgrimage, don't do it tomorrow but give it a bit of time.

### Confirmation in 2025

We have received notification that our parish celebration of Confirmation will take place on Friday, 14 November at St Mary's, Dungog. Bishop Michael will be attending to celebrate with us.

Further information about the 2025 journey for completing Christian Initiation can be found by going to <https://dungogresfordcatholic.org.au/celebrations/christian-initiation/completing-christian-initiation-for-children/>.

Please pass this information to anyone you know who might find it helpful.

### Finding A New Patronal Name

The nomination of candidates for our new parish patron have now closed. My thanks to those parishioners who made a suggestion.

As previously advised, the nominations will be made public next Sunday (9 March) at our Masses, and then subsequently on our website. Some background on each of the nominees will accompany that list.

A vote to discern the new patron will be taken on **Sunday 23 March** with the results announced on Sunday 30 March. After the vote has been taken, the Bishop will be advised so that the name of our new patron can be included in the decree establishing our new parish.

### Potential Changes At The Cathedral

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is currently facing a space constraint in what was supposed to be the 'temporary' crypt located under the altar in the St John the Baptist Oratory in Maitland (the 'old cathedral'). It is here that the deceased Bishops are interred.

Various solutions to increase crypt space have been considered by diocesan leadership and it is now time to consult with parishioners and other stakeholders in the broader community in order that an informed decision can be made.

Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend one of two community consultation sessions to be held on Tuesday 11 March at 10am and repeated at 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

For more information, and to download the consultation prospectus, visit the diocesan website ([www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/)).

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### You hypocrite

*It is often argued that it is hypocrisy to attend Mass on Sundays and be 'holy' in that circumstance but to then be less than perfect during the rest of the week. This is often rolled out as a convenient excuse for not attending Mass at all: everyone who goes to Mass is a hypocrite. Of course, attending Mass does not imply perfection. It is in fact a recognition of imperfection and the need to come together as a community and to seek God's help to have another go at trying to get it a bit more right in the coming week.*

### 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

## Today's Liturgy:

### Scripture Readings:

**1st** Sirach 27:4-7

**2nd** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

**Gospel** Luke 6:39-45

### Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

### Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection,  
until you come again.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:  
*"Let us pray that broken families might discover  
the cure for their wounds through forgiveness,  
rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their  
difference."*

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass TODAY (2 March) under the pergola beside the church. Please 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.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford acknowledge the people of the Worimi and Wonnarua, on whose traditional lands we gather, live and work. We acknowledge 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.

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

8th Week in Ordinary Time, Year I

Monday 3 March

Tuesday 4 March

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (with St Joseph's  
School students)

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Thursday 6 March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 7 March

Friday after Ash Wednesday

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 8 March

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Sunday 9 March

1st Sunday of Lent, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill



## In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** Stephen Samuel.

### Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In March:

Gordon Smith, Dan Harrison, Linda Gleeson, Vincent Smith, Marie Williams, Gwen Richards, Alexander Loudon, Claude McGinty, Herb Trappel, Allan Turner, Arthur Preece, Thelma Lowe, Joyce Copus, Leo Maher, Matthew Harding, Vincent Lane, Vince Banister, Gerry Gehrig, Terry Johnson, Philip Gippel, Sr Patricia McGinty RSM.

**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, Neville Barry, Susan Barlow, Allwyn Gippel, Christine Elliott, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, George Bainou, Gwen Trappel, Tom Redgrove, John Newton.