



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, Summerhill via Vacy.

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

16 MARCH 2025

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 252 434, 4996 4474, or email
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

W: 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.

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

A Pastoral Note ...

In a world where there is so much noise, so much competition for our attention, it is understandable why some might struggle with a request to listen.

The task of listening, as difficult as it is, is very much a part of attempting to live the Christian life and being faithful to that which Jesus asks of us, both individually and corporately as the Church.

And listening, as I may have mentioned before, is about more than just hearing something. It requires us to 'pay attention', to be attentive to both what is being said *and* the person who is saying those things.

True listening happens in the encounter between one person and another, when both 'pay attention' to each other, to what is said, to how it is being said, and to any number of other non-verbal indicators.

If we are to heed what we hear in today's Gospel – to 'Listen to him!' – then perhaps the first step is to put aside those things that might get in the way of doing exactly that.

And that is part of the discipline of the Lenten Season, this annual opportunity to remove those things that prevent us from being both ready to listen *and* then actually engaging in the act of listening.

During this year's Season of Lent, I invite you in joining me removing the obstacles that prevent me from listening to the Lord when he speaks, and to being open to hearing – actually hearing – those things the Lord wishes to say.

Who knows what might come into being if we are willing to embrace the opportunity of hearing what Jesus has to say, and then putting it into practice in our lives.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Formation for Communion Ministers

In preparation for the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice, formation sessions for those who will exercise this ministry will take place on

Clarence Town	26 March	6pm
East Gresford	27 March	10am
Dungog	29 March	11.30am

Each session will cover the same content so you are free to attend whichever session might be convenient to your diary.

If none of those sessions fit your diary, alternative arrangements can be made with Fr Andrew.

Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated in the evening of Tuesday 15 April at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West commencing at 7pm.

This Mass is a significant annual liturgical event for our Diocese, and all parishioners are welcome to join together to celebrate with Bishop Michael, his clergy, and others from across the diocese.

St Joseph's Day Prayer

Our parish school, St Joseph's School, Dungog, will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph with a special time of prayer on Wednesday 19 March at 1.20pm in St Mary's Church, Dungog. Parishioners and friends are welcome to join our school community for this special day.

Dungog Lenten Group

This year's Lenten Group in Dungog will gather every Thursday during Lent 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.

Patronal Feast for Clarence Town

The patronal feast of our church at Clarence Town will be celebrated on Monday 17 March with Mass at 5.30pm, to be followed by some light refreshments under the pergola.

All parishioners are welcome to come along for this celebration. Please bring some goodies to share and then join us for good food and good conversation.

Ordination of Anton Perera

Anton Perera will be ordained as deacon by Bishop Michael on Friday 4 April in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. The liturgy will begin at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join in celebrating this significant event in the life of our diocese.

Reintroduction of the Chalice

My thanks to those who indicated their desire for the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice in our communities. There are 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

Confirmation in 2025

We have been advised 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 heading to our website and navigating to dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au/celebrations/christian-initiation/completing-christian-initiation-for-children/.

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

LIVING THE GOSPEL

'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

Meditation Retreat Morning

You are invited to come along to the Diocesan Resource Centre, cnr Tudor and Parry Streets, Newcastle (just near the Cathedral) from 9.30am to 12pm on Saturday 29 March for a Meditation Retreat Morning. The cost is \$10, and morning tea will be provided.

Email annecuskelly@hotmail.com for more information.



Where's the Music?

During the Season of Lent there will be no Recessional Hymn during the 9.30am Mass at Dungog. The Mass will end with the final blessing, and the departure of the presider.

This keeping of silence at the end of our Mass will be part of our communal Lenten discipline, a means of encouraging reflection as we leave the celebration of Eucharist to go out into the world.

Way of the Cross 2025

This year's Way of the Cross will continue the diocese's pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to the Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities,

Join everyone at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you're able to gather from 2pm) at St Joseph's Church, 140 Wangi Road, Toronto.

For enquiries, email mission@mn.catholic.org.au. To register go to www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059.

And The Nominees Are ...

The nominees for our new parish patron are...

- St Aidan of Lindisfarne
- St Bartholomew
- St Elizabeth Seton
- St Francis of Assisi
- St Gregory the Great
- St Isidore the Farmer
- St John Bosco
- St John Paul II
- St Jude Thaddeus
- St Lazarus (of Bethany)
- St Marcellin Champagnat
- St Mark (the Evangelist)
- St Maximilian Kolbe
- St Oliver Plunkett
- St Peter Chanel
- St Rita of Cascia
- St Thomas Aquinas

A vote to discern the new patron will be taken on **Sunday 23 March** with the results announced on Sunday 30 March.



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 assisting with the Chalice, please let Fr Andrew know of your desire by Sunday 23 March. If training (initial or refresher) is required, that can be arranged as soon as possible.

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 last 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 😊.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings:

1st Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

2nd Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Gospel Luke 9:28-36

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

For the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

Baptisms Next Week

We look forward to welcoming **Violet Jackson**, together with her family and friends, as we celebrate her Baptism at 10am next Saturday in St Mary's, Dungog.

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."

Moring Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass TODAY (16 March) in our Parish Hall. Please 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 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, Gloria Curry.

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

2nd Week of Lent

Monday 17 March

Solemnity of St Patrick

5.30pm Mass @ Clarence Town

Tuesday 18 March

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 19 March

Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of Mary

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 20 March

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 21 March

NO MASS Fr Andrew facilitating spirituality day for our school staff.

Saturday 22 March

10am Baptism @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 23 March

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Ecumenical Service

An ecumenical church service will take place on Sunday 30 March in Christ Church Anglican Church, Dowling Street, Dungog, commencing at 6.30pm. All are welcome. More detail to follow in future bulletins.

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the Office of Safeguarding: either by phoning 4979 1390 or sending an email to childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au. Visit the website of the Office of Safeguarding for resources and further information. The website can be found at www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog and Gresford acknowledge the people of the Worimi and Wonnarua nations, 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.