



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.

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

13 OCTOBER 2024

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
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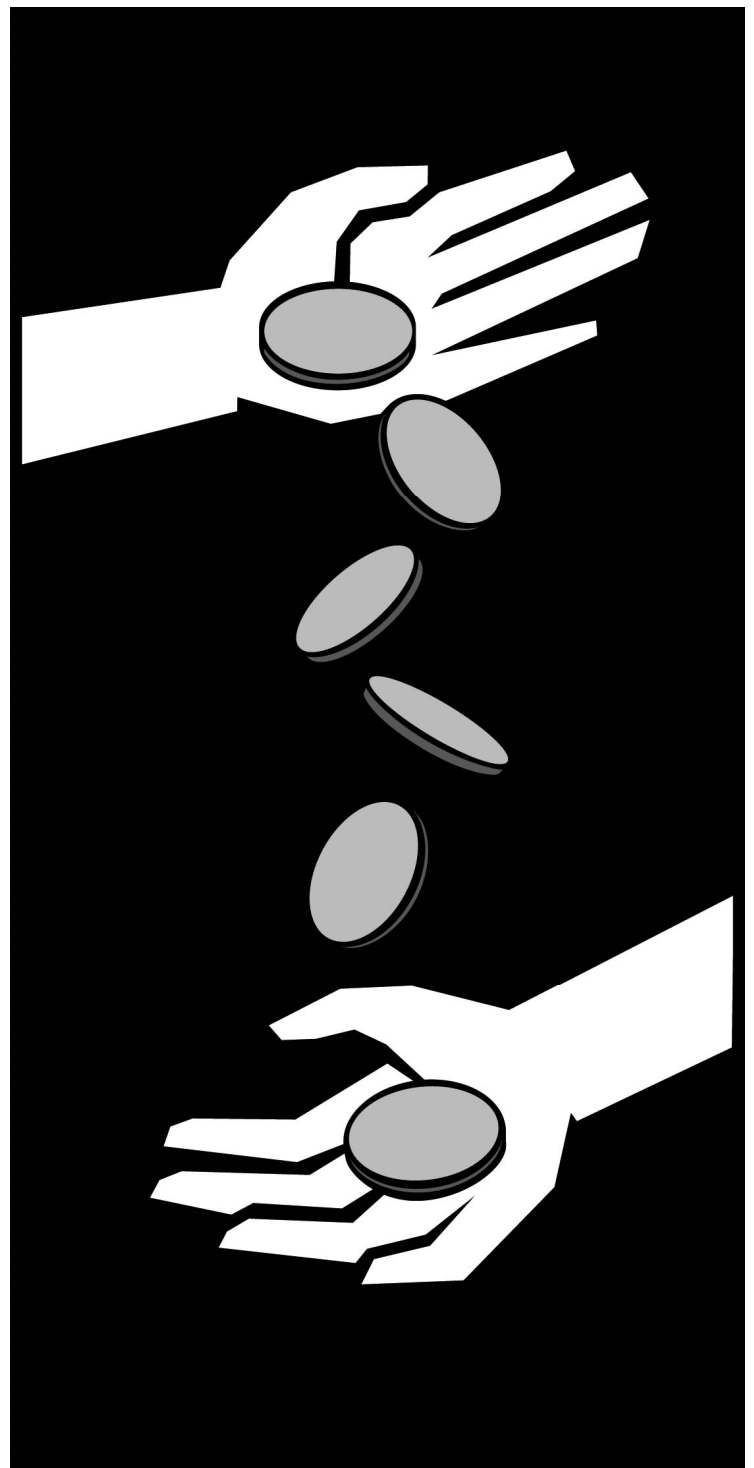
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W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

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 you diary so you don't miss out!

Catholic Mission Appeal

In Mongolia, Chuluunbaatar suffered a life-altering injury while trying to rescue a submerged vehicle, leaving him unable to work and reliant on scarce support services for basic needs. Without shelter and food, Chuluunbaatar faces the real risk of freezing to death. Resources are limited, but the Church in Mongolia is working hard to provide essential services to people in need.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to extend your generosity to help enhance these vital services. Your support can make a significant difference to the lives of many, offering hope and tangible assistance to individuals like Chuluunbaatar.



Have you thought?

The Gospel of Prosperity

There are those within the ranks of Christianity who preach what is sometimes referred to as a 'gospel of prosperity'. They claim that wealth is a sign of favor, or approval, from God. They feel that if a Christian person is wealthy then they must be living a 'good' life that God is rewarding through material possession. They use this as justification for further accumulation of wealth. We can see from today's gospel that Jesus would have something to say about such an interpretation! Jesus reminds us that our reward is not in this world in the form of wealth and material possessions, but in eternal life.

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 you diary.

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.

Free To A Good Home

Located in our Parish Hall are two items that are no longer need: 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.

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.

Homily by Richard Leonard

John Calvin, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation, reacted against what he saw as medieval Catholicism's adherence to the sacramental law as a means to salvation. 'If you keep the law, the law will keep you.' He was right to condemn the preaching of some Catholic priests of his day. Calvin maintained that since time began God predestined those who, by faith, would be saved. Calvin argued that the rest of humanity would be lost. It was impossible to know for certain, Calvin argued, who was who. This was tough stuff!

Within a few years, however, his own congregation in Geneva wanted to know how anyone could be sure they were on the right path to salvation. Calvin's disciples taught that strict and right behaviour was an indication of who belonged to those elected by God to be saved. Not dancing, drinking, swearing or gambling, but working hard, saving one's money and the careful observance of the Ten Commandments became the benchmarks of the elect. Within a few generations of Calvin's death, it is easy to see that the observance of the strict, Protestant, moral code had replaced the seven Sacraments as the way of being assured of heaven.

The rich young man wanted to be assured of salvation too. He was a good man; an observant Jew and someone Jesus looked on with love. But he was hoping the law would save him. He wanted to be sure of gaining heaven by jumping through the right hoops, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Jesus doesn't reject the importance of faithful and good living, but he offers the young man a relationship that would make sense of the choices involved in following him. Without a loving relationship with God, who calls us to live the best life we can, the fulfilment of any law, civil or moral, is a tyranny. We do not believe in a tyrannical God.

We do believe, however, in a God who makes demands of us, who often challenges us in the places where we are most vulnerable. For the young man, his money was an obstacle. He could not embrace a relationship with Jesus because this would have placed in peril his wealth and the comfort that his many possessions afforded him.

For the earliest Christian community today's Gospel highlights serious issues on which people left their company: the role of the law in following Christ; the divide between rich and poor; the commitment demanded of followers in the earliest community. In comparison to our forebears in faith, we have domesticated this radical edge of the Gospel.

We often comfort ourselves with the assurance that the law will save us, whereas Jesus tells us that salvation comes from a loving relationship with him, shown in the sacrifice of our lives. To the degree that any law enables us to deepen this relationship with Jesus and to serve his people, then it is helpful and good. If a civil or religious law gets in the road, then its moral authority over us is questionable.

In a world where the vast majority of the world's wealth and resources are held and used by a dominantly white, educated and, at least nominally, Christian First World, then the demands of today's Gospel should be as confronting to us as they were to the rich young man. 'There is still one thing you lack, sell everything and come follow me.' It has suited us to move away from this financially hard teaching of Jesus.

The law and money are in themselves neutral things. They can be used for good or evil. At their worst the law and money seduce us into pride, greed and power. At their best they can serve the liberation of all people and enable our world to better reflect the Kingdom of dignity, justice and equality Jesus taught and lived.

Given that all things are possible for God, let's pray in this Eucharist that we might stop domesticating the Gospel but allow it to lead us more deeply into a relationship with Jesus who looks on us, loves us and calls us to write the law of love on our hearts in such a way that there will be justice for all people.

© 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.

Rejoice!!

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 Wisdom 7:7-11; 2nd Hebrews 4:12-13; **Gospel** Mark 10:17-27.

Responsorial Psalm: Fill us with your love, O Lord, as we will sing with joy!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit,
the kingdom of heaven is theirs! 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...)

28th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 14 October

Tuesday 15 October

Memorial of St Teresa of Jesus

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 16 October

8.30am Mass @ Dungog.

Thursday 17 October

Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 18 October

Feast of St Luke

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (joined by Years 5 & 6)

Saturday 19 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 20 October

29th 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.

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: by phoning 4979 1390 or by emailing childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au. Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

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, 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 Dungog

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

Alleluia!

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."

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!