



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.

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

10 NOVEMBER 2024

Parish Staff

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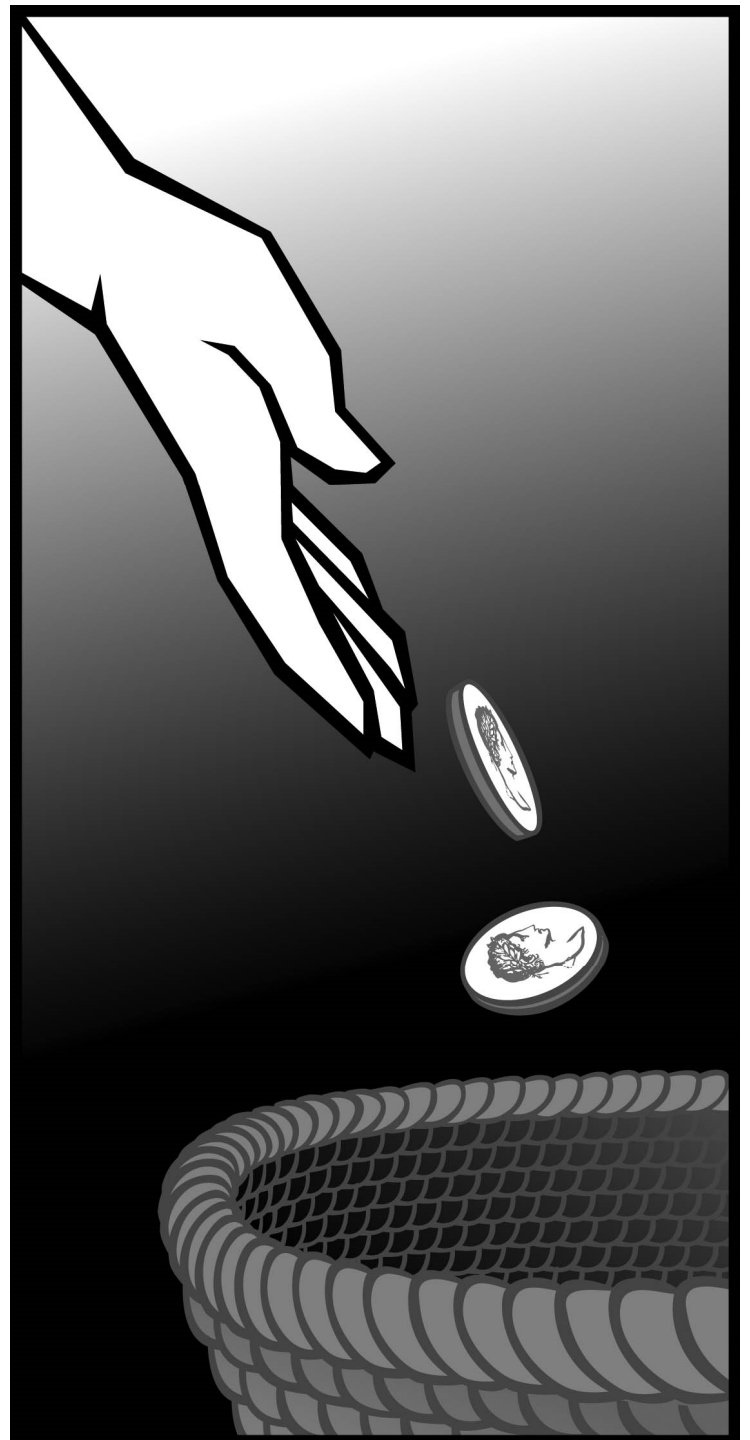
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Parish Bulletin is published each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website which is updated weekly.

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.



Columban Calendars Available

Columban Calendars for 2025 will be available from Sunday 17 November at the cost of \$10 each. Please see Lyn Barham if you're interested.

A Retirement

Sr Louise Gannon rsj, who is currently the Manager, Worship & Prayer for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, has announced that she will retire at the end of November 2024.

Louise, who I consider both a colleague and a friend, has been instrumental in fostering the liturgical life of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle for many years, and has been in active ministry at a diocesan level since the 1992-93 Diocesan Synod.

Louise's contribution to our common life will be sadly missed, and we wish her well as she rests and explores other possibilities for her future.

Fr Andrew

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Widow

In ancient Jewish culture, until a woman was married she was literally the property of her father. Upon marrying, the woman left her family and became part of her husband's family and became specifically the property of her husband. If the woman's husband were to die, leaving her a widow, she no longer had anywhere to belong. Because a woman's identity was based on which man she belonged to, she effectively ceased to belong anywhere. It is for this reason that the Torah names widows as deserving of special care and protection from the whole community.

Baptisms Next Week

We welcome **Alphonsus McNab**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism at 11am next Saturday at St Mary's, Dungog.

Dungog Christmas Lunch

The Dungog Parish Christmas Lunch will take place on **Sunday 1 December** in the Parish Hall.

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you would like to attend. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office and we will do it for you.

The Return of the Chalice—A Possibility

Bishop Michael has determined that the time is now appropriate for the current blanket restriction on the possibility of receiving Communion from the Chalice to be lifted. The current restriction will cease to be in place from the First Sunday of Advent (Sunday, 1 December 2024).

The Bishop has asked each parish to undertake a process of discernment about when and if to return to offering Communion from the Chalice in their particular circumstances.

A copy of the Bishop's letter is available on the noticeboard of our churches this weekend, while the Pastoral Guidelines it recommends can be found on the website under 'Resources'.

I would ask all parishioners to give this matter some serious thought and prayer, and, if time permits, it can be discussed at the Parishes Assembly—or at a separate meeting if time does not.

Fr Andrew

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.

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.

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.

Homily by Richard Leonard

In today's Gospel Jesus lines up the religious leaders of his day and lets them have it with both barrels. It may come a surprise to learn that hypocrisy is the sin Jesus condemns most frequently in the Gospels. He could not bear it. And nor should we.

Being powerful and rich is not a problem in itself. As with all gifts, it is what we do with them that show us up for who we are. The problem with religious, political, social or even family power, and the wealth that can come from it, is that it is so seductive. The more powerful and rich we become, the more we can think everything is our due. We can take our eye off the Giver of all gifts and avoid our responsibility to share with those who are left with nothing.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus does not praise the widow because she is poor. There is no nobility in poverty. Jesus praises her for being generous and he indicates how the poor teach the rich about what really matters in life.

This story teaches a similar lesson.

Centuries ago, the Pope decided that all the Jews had to leave Rome. Naturally there was a big uproar from the Jewish community. So the Pope made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Jewish community. If the Jew won, the Jews could stay. If the Pope won, the Jews would leave.

The Jews realised that they had no choice. They looked around for a champion who could defend their faith, but no one volunteered. It was too risky. So they picked Moshe, an old, poor man. Moshe had nothing to lose so he agreed, but on one condition. Not being a learned man he asked that neither side be allowed to speak. The Pope agreed.

The day of the great debate came. Moshe and the Pope sat opposite each other for a full minute before the Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. Moshe looked back at him and raised one finger. The Pope waved his fingers in a circle around his head. Moshe pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope pulled out a wafer and a glass of wine. Moshe pulled out an apple.

The Pope stood up and said, 'I give up. This man is too good. The Jews can stay.'

An hour later, the cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what happened. The Pope said: 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that there was one God common to both our faiths. Then I waved my finger around me to show

him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground, showing that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and the wafer to emphasise the Eucharist. He pulled out an apple to remind me of original sin. He had an answer for everything.'

Meanwhile, the Jewish community had crowded around Moshe, amazed that this old, poor man had done what all their scholars had insisted was impossible!

What happened?' they asked. 'Well,' said Moshe, 'First, he said to me that the Jews had three days to get out of here. I told him that not one of us was leaving. Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared of Jews. I let him know that we were staying right here.' And then?' asked a woman. 'I don't know,' said Moshe. 'He took out his lunch and I took out mine.'

May this Eucharist, then, give us strength to avoid being seduced by power, riches and greed. May we use whatever gifts we receive to build up the entire human family and may we never stand condemned by Jesus for coming here each Sunday and saying one thing, and then leaving here and doing the very opposite.

© 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.

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 'Meeting Papers' are now available for downloading from the 'Resources' page of our website. If you are unable to download the document and would like a copy, please contact the Parish Office and we will print a copy for you.

I commend this process to your prayerful consideration. Please come along to the Assembly and help determine the future of our two parishes.

Fr Andrew

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: **1st** 1 Kings 17:10-16; **2nd** Hebrews 9:24-28; **Gospel** Mark 12:38-44.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

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

Memorial Acclamation Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection,
you have set us free.

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

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 11 November
Memorial of St Martin of Tours

Tuesday 12 November
Memorial of St Josaphat
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 13 November
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 14 November
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 15 November
9.30am Mass @ Dungog (with Years 5 & 6
from St Joseph's School)

Saturday 16 November
11am Baptism @ Dungog
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 17 November
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (17 November) in our Parish Hall.

Please bring a plate to share, and 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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In November: Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, Norma Kingston.

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, Jean Robertson.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What's in a word?

It's interesting that we have traditionally read Jesus' comments about the widow's offering as praise and perhaps even some pride in her actions. Nothing in the words themselves give away Jesus' emotion. Try reading Jesus' words with a variety of different emotions: anger; sadness; joy; triumph; dismay. How does the emotion with which we read these words change our understanding of them? Can you think of other passages that could be read in a whole new light if we changed our preconceived ideas about the emotion with which Jesus spoke?

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:

"Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation."