



# 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.

## 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### 17 NOVEMBER 2024

#### 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](mailto: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 251 434, 4996 4474, or  
email [vip\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:vip_1@bigpond.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** 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](http://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.

### **Dungog Christmas Hamper Raffle**

Contributions are invited for the prizes for the Dungog Christmas Hamper Raffle.

Contributions of non-perishable items can be left in the baskets at the back of the church in readiness for the hampers to be prepared.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### **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.

### **Free To A Good Home—Last Chance!!**

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.

### **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.

Although many parishioners have already given thought and prayer to the issues that will be discussed on the day of the Assembly, I would strongly encourage you to read and consider the papers in advance of our gathering. This will ensure that our conversation is both effective and efficient.

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*

### **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, 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*

### **What's In A Name?**

As I have previously written in the Bulletin, if a decision to merge our two parishes is taken at the pending Assembly, there will be a need to find a new patron saint by which the new entity can be called.

If you have any suggestions that might meet the need, please bring them along to the Assembly where we can begin a process of choosing a new patron (assuming, that is, we decided to merge).

It would be very advantageous, if you're proposing a name, to provide some background as to the patron you think is appropriate and to share that with other parishioners. The choice of a new patron will be made by ballot in the new year—again assuming that is the choice that is made.

Our new patron cannot be one of the existing patrons (Mary, Patrick, Helen, etc.) and, preferably, should be unique across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle—since we already are unique in the diocese, and will continue to be so.

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

Several years ago, the film 'The Pianist' won Best Picture at the Oscars. It's the true story of Wladyslaw Szpilman (Brody) who was a celebrated classical pianist in Warsaw during the 1930s. He came from an affluent and intellectual family. Like all Jews of Warsaw, in November of 1940 the Szpilmans are herded into the Jewish Ghetto. Unlike most of the others Wladyslaw comes out each day to work as a cocktail pianist in a Warsaw café. Polish Jews and Christians remember and admire his playing. So much so that in the summer of 1942 while the rest of his family are deported to Treblinka, Wladyslaw is rescued from the train by a Jewish collaborator. The Polish resistance hides him in Warsaw. When his whereabouts are discovered Wladyslaw goes on the run and survives in a city which barely survives the war.

Toward the end of the film there is a magnificent scene where the now-skeletal Wladyslaw is caught by a Nazi Army officer hiding in one of the few Warsaw houses left standing. He asks Szpilman what he did for a living, and then invites him to sit and play the piano in the drawing room of the house. In the midst of the almost total destruction of the world around them, Wladyslaw enables beauty to have the last word over the horror of war. It changes both men. It's the first time the pianist has played in years, and his concerto touches something human in the German soldier which leads him to protect Wladyslaw.

In today's Gospel we get a very vivid picture of how the end of the world might break in upon us. It's clear that Mark thought it was going to happen in the lifetime of some of his hearers. It didn't, and many generations later we're still waiting.

This is not to say that the reign of God doesn't regularly break in upon us. Wladyslaw's playing shows how music can do it. We believe that every day more good is done in the world than evil; else this world would destroy itself. And we hold that the source of all love is Christ. So, every time we are kind rather than cruel, patient rather than intolerant, generous rather than selfish, beautiful rather than ugly, the reign of God bursts into our lives.

One translation of verse 27 in today's Gospel reads, 'Then he will send out the angels and gather together his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven'. The whole idea of 'the elect' has exercised the imagination of several generations of Christians ever since this verse was written. The Protestant Reformation was, in part, based on who Christ

elects to be his own, how we get elected, and how we stay that way.

John Calvin was especially interested in this question and he rightly linked the goodness of our lives with those elected by Christ. But Calvin and many Catholic scholars have interpreted the meaning of this text too narrowly.

Remembering that Mark thinks the end of the world is soon, that his community is being persecuted for their Christian faith and that Christianity has not spread all that far by the time he writes this Gospel around 65 AD, it's somewhat surprising to read that the elect might be made up of people who come from the ends of the earth. We can safely assume that at this time not many people, beyond the Mediterranean basin, had heard about Christ. Even if this more generous and inclusive reading is not what Mark means when he refers to this world, it would be mean-spirited of us to imagine that all he means in reference to the elect in heaven are only those professing Christians who had died in his lifetime. The more consoling reading of who is in the elect, is to understand it as including anyone, anywhere, whose life enables faith, hope, love, beauty, justice and peace to break in upon the world.

And so what makes being a Christian so special? We know who's doing the electing and why, and we have each other as we struggle to live out Christ's reign every day – until he comes again.

© 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.

## Christmas Masses

With Christmas Day falling on a Wednesday in 2024, our parishes will celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (to give the day its official liturgical title) as follows:

*Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December*  
6pm Mass @ Dungog

*Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December*  
8am Mass @ Clarence Town  
10am Mass @ East Gresford

Please pass these times to anyone who might like to know about them.

Fr Andrew

## Today's Liturgy:

**Scripture Readings:** 1st Daniel 12:1-3; 2nd Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; **Gospel** Mark 13:24-32.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. 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...)

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 18 November

Tuesday 19 November

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 20 November

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

5.30pm Remembrance Mass @ Clarence Town

Thursday 21 November

*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 22 November

*Memorial of St Cecilia*

**NO MASS** Fr Andrew in Newcastle all day in preparation for Ordination.

Saturday 23 November

10am Solomon's Ordination @ Cathedral

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 24 November

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year B*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## 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, Alfred Bridger.

**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, Lorraine Rooke, Jessica Byron.

## Morning Tea at Dungog

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

Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

## 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.

# Alleluia!

## 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.

# Rejoice!!

## 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."*