



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.

THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C

29 DECEMBER 2024

Parish Staff

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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...

On Christmas Eve, during the Mass to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, thus inaugurating the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025.

This Jubilee Year has as its theme the concept of Christians becoming "Pilgrims of Hope", a task and challenge that all Christians are called to.

During his homily that night, Pope Francis remarked:

With haste, then, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. And this is our task: to bring hope into the different situations of life. For Christian hope is not a cinematic "happy ending" which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord's promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs. It is a summons not to tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness. Hope calls us ... to be upset with things that are wrong and to find the courage to change them. Hope calls us to become pilgrims in search of truth, dreamers who never tire, women and men open to being challenged by God's dream, which is

of a new world where peace and justice reign.

Hope is a promise.

These words from Pope Francis particularly caught my attention because they belie a reality that we, as Christians, can sometimes forget.

We are not promised perfection in this world, nor even the absence of strife and suffering. We are, however, promised the hope of God's continuing presence with us, God's People, as we journey through the ever increasing complexities that face our world.

So I am going to embrace the possibilities of this Jubilee Year to become a Pilgrim of Hope, to become a person of Hope that is not overcome by the strife and complexity of the world, but to see the possibilities that God's promise opens up for me.

Perhaps you might like to join me.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Acknowledging the Jubilee in the Parishes

Across the course of the Jubilee Year there will be a couple of noticeable acknowledgements.

1. You will find the Jubilee logo on each edition of the bulletin until the Jubilee Year concludes. This week it's on the front page, but it will be found anywhere as we move forward, creating a visual reminder of the opportunity to become 'Pilgrims of Hope'.
2. The Pascal Candle will be moved to stand near the Ambo in each of our churches, the place where it usually sits during the Easter Season. It will also be alight during every significant liturgy that we celebrate this year as another visual reminder that we called to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' that shine Christ's light into the world.
3. Each Sunday there will be a specific intention for the Jubilee Year added to the General Intercessions (the Prayer of the Faithful), again as a reminder of the opportunity the Jubilee Year offers us.
4. We will look for opportunities to put the call of the Jubilee Year into practical effect as we seek to offer the promise of hope to the wider community. To that end, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please get in touch!

A Jubilee Year traditionally only comes around once every 25 years, so let's embrace this chance to celebrate the promise of hope and to become 'Pilgrims of Hope' for the world...starting right here in Dungog & Gresford.

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.

Parish Office Closure

Please be aware that the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas Eve and Tuesday 7 January 2025.

The parish phone and email will be monitored during this period in case of emergency but any item of 'regular' business will need to wait until the office reopens.

Mass For New Year's Day

Mass to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (and to mark the beginning of 2025) will take place at the slightly later time of **9.30am** on New Year's Day at St Mary's, Dungog.

Dungog Christmas Hamper Raffle Results

Congratulations to the lucky winners of this year's Christmas Hamper Raffle:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) Margaret Gippel | 6) Brett Farrell |
| 2) Jo Jokinen | 7) A Ball |
| 3) Hugo Danvers | 8) M Primrose |
| 4) Jacqui Wilkinson | 9) Mitchell Grey |
| 5) Mackenzie | 10) M Primrose |

Again, many thanks to who donated the contents of the various prize hampers and to those who bought tickets. As a result of your generosity \$570 was raised to continue the support of the parish.

Rejoice!!

Lenten Program 2025—WATCH THIS SPACE!

Ash Wednesday in 2025 falls on Wednesday 5 March, which may seem like a long way away.

But it's not in terms of the preparation and production of resources to accompany a Lenten Program—the Parish Office is already starting to receive advertising from the usual bunch of providers!

Just after Christmas calls will go out for numbers for participants so orders can be made in good time for availability at the beginning of March.

Please give some thought in and around the Christmas celebrations about your involvement in a Lenten Program in 2025, and watch the bulletin for when numbers are called for.

The Return of the Chalice—Q&A

As conversation around the restoration of being able to receive Communion from the Chalice continues in the parishes, I've been asked the same couple of questions by a few people. In light of that I thought I would take the opportunity to answer them here in case others were thinking along similar lines:

Do I have to receive from the Chalice? No, you don't. The choice to receive from the Chalice is always up to the individual, and this may well be changeable from week to week. Whether you choose to receive Communion from the Chalice or not, you receive the fullness of Communion ('the Body and Blood of Christ') when you go to Communion.

There can be many reasons why individuals may opt not to do so, and that is entirely up to them. Likewise, there are many reasons why other individuals choose to receive from the Chalice; that, too, is entirely up to them.

So if/when Communion from the Chalice is restored in the parishes, it will always be a choice for each individual. The only person who is obliged to receive under both kinds is the priest celebrant.

Can we receive from the Chalice by intinction?

The short answer to this question is no, particularly if by 'intinction' you mean when you receive the Host in your hand and then dip it into the Chalice yourself before consuming.

This practice, 'self-intinction', is specifically prohibited, predominantly because it reverses the theological and liturgical practice where by we receive Communion rather than take Communion. The practice of 'self intinction' might be practiced elsewhere, but that does not mean it is correct, either in terms of the discipline of the Church or its theological understanding of what we are doing.

Communion by intinction, as a possibility found in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, requires the priest distributing Communion (and it can only be a priest who does this) to dip the Host in the Chalice and then place the Host on the tongue of the person receiving Communion.

The practicalities associated with Communion by intinction in small rural parishes such as ours also mean it's not something we could implemented in the way envisaged by the Church's liturgy.

If you have any questions around the possibility of restoring the ability to receive Communion from the Chalice, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'd be only too happy to discuss your questions and concerns.
Fr Andrew

Finding A New Patronal Name

The search for a new patron for a new parish has begun!

If you would like to suggest the name of a saint to potentially become the patron of the 'Catholic Parish of Dungog Gresford', please do so in writing. It would be helpful to provide a little bit of information about your proposed saint and tell us why you think your saint is a good choice.

A list of the current patronal names used across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, which you may like to avoid, can be found on our website under the 'Resources' tab of the main menu.

A reminder that the patronal names already in use within the two parishes are not available.

Please lodge your submission to Fr Andrew by the end of February 2025.

"Christian hope ... should spur us to set out 'with haste'. As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world."

Pope Francis
Homily of 24 December 2024.

Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours, impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties.



There are hundreds of people who have been injured or trapped under rubble, and at least 14 people killed, with the death toll expected to continue to rise. People remain fearful of further disaster, as Vanuatu is one of the countries who are most susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding and tsunamis.

This appeal will provide support to the on the ground partners of Caritas Australia who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychological support, and recover efforts.

To donate visit www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu or use the QR Code above. Your generosity will be very greatly appreciated.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: **1st** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; **2nd** 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; **Gospel** Luke 2:41-52.

Responsorial Psalm: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

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

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

The Octave of Christmas & Christmas Season

Monday 30 December

Tuesday 31 December

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 1 January

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 2 January

Memorial of Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 3 January

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 4 January

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 5 January

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Baptism @ Clarence Town

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:

"Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

Baptisms Next Week

We welcome **Peyton Merrick**, together with her family and friends, as we celebrate her Baptism at 11am next Sunday at St Patrick's, Clarence Town.

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In December: Katie Rumbel, Elizabeth Holstein, Keith Schumaker, Margaret Egan, Ella Maher, Alan Robertson, Christine Knight, Margaret Miners, Mollie Smith, George Maurer, Mervyn Trappel, Paul Murphy, Rowland Young, Catherine Reid, Brian Smith, Thora Tindall, Valma Osmond, Nancy Dickson, Narelle Ritter, Anne Faber, Christine Brosie, Eileen Lane, Peter McGinty.

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.

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

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.