



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.

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Other Contacts

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 0427 536 248

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

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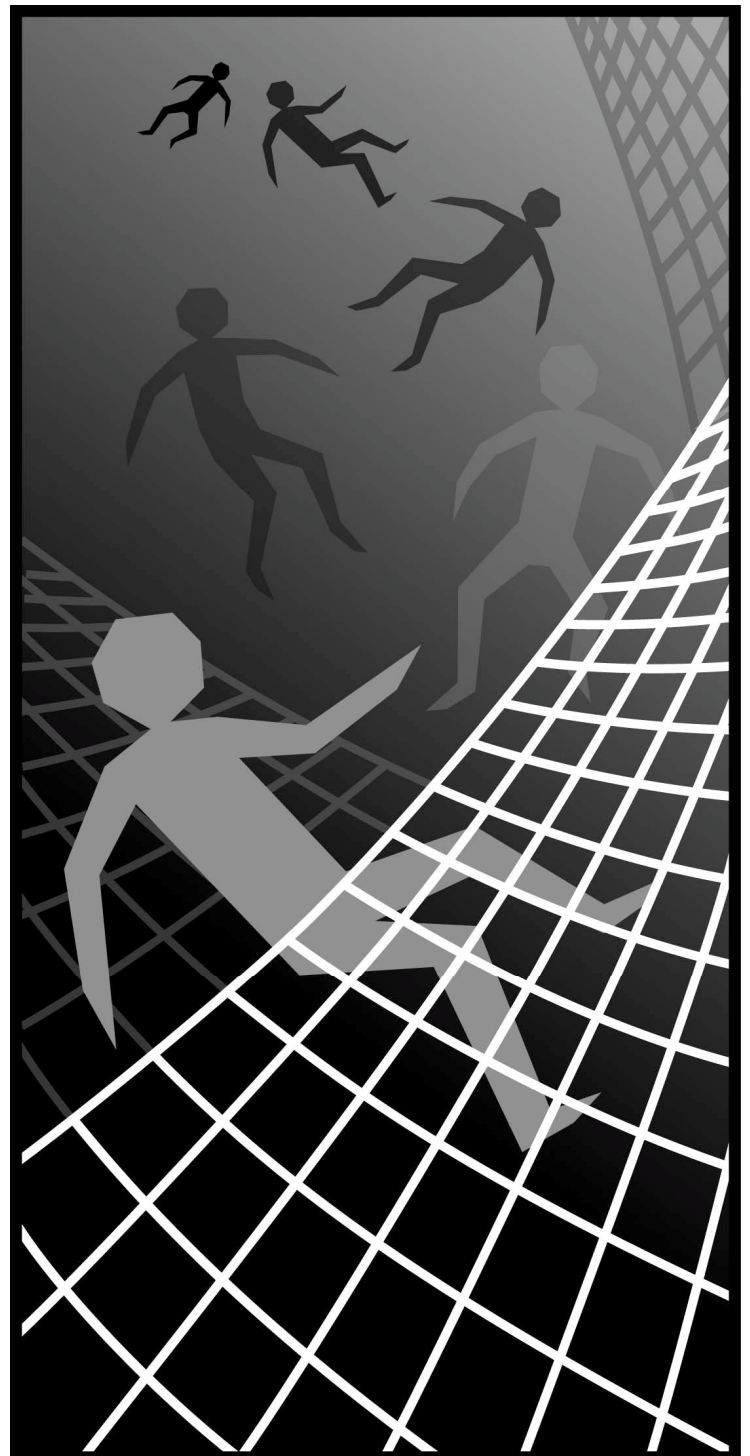
E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au

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.



Prayers for the Sick

Praying for those who are sick is a Christian duty and something we should undertake both willingly and with compassion.

Parishioners are invited to review the list of people we are currently praying for, and if there are names that should be removed or added, and let Fr Andrew know (email or written note please).

Congratulations Bishop Michael!

Today is the thirteenth anniversary of Bishop Michael's ordination as bishop. We offer him our congratulations and the assurance of continued prayers for his ministry and leadership within our diocese.

Confirmation in 2025

We have received notification 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.

Our website has now been updated with the relevant information, and any younger parishioner who might have an interest in completing their Christian Initiation can find more information by going to <https://dungogresfordcatholic.org.au/celebrations/christian-initiation/completing-christian-initiation-for-children/>.

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

Diocesan Launch of the Jubilee Year

On Sunday 2 March, Bishop Michael will officially launch the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's celebration of the Jubilee Year.

This will be marked by a Diocesan pilgrimage from Nobby's Beach (8am) to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass (10am) and a Festival (11am) in the Cathedral precinct grounds. The Festival will feature an official launch of *Project Compassion 2025* and the distribution of some resources.

All corners of the Diocese are encouraged to have representation and involvement as we mark Pope Francis' theme for the Jubilee—*Pilgrims of Hope*. Please email mission@mn.catholic.org.au for more information.

Lenten Program 2025

As previously advised, it's time now to think about whether you would like to be participate in a Lenten Group during 2025 or, alternatively, you would like to undertake the Lenten journey of reflection by yourself.

'Sign up' sheets are now available in our churches on which you can indicate your wishes for either approach so the Parish can ensure it orders enough resources for everyone who wishes to join in. Please indicate your interest no later than **Sunday 9 February (TODAY!!)**.

An initial order has been made, which should be sufficient, but if we need to order more that would be best done by the middle of February at the latest.

Living the Gospe

Hearing the Call

Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse!

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 (if it eventuates) assisting with the Chalice, please let Fr Andrew know of your desire by the end of February. If training (initial or refresher) is required, that can be arranged before the new rosters come into effect.

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 be 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 :)

Homily by Richard Leonard

Think about this for a minute!

It is time to elect a world leader, and yours is the deciding vote. Here are the facts about the three leading candidates:

Candidate A associates with crooked politicians, consults with astrologers, has had two mistresses, is severely disabled, chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B was kicked out of office twice, slept until noon, used opium at university, is an undiagnosed manic-depressive and drinks a bottle of whiskey every day.

Candidate C is a decorated war hero, vegetarian, doesn't smoke or drink, except for an occasional beer and has never had an extra-marital affair. Who would you choose?

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Candidate B is Winston Churchill.

Candidate C is Adolph Hitler.

Sometimes the best candidate on paper is the worst leader in reality. Thank goodness Jesus did not hire a management consultancy to help him recruit his earliest disciples. On paper Peter, James and John would not have got past expressing interest in the job. Jesus recognised, however, that they had the three things necessary for Christian leadership: faith, hope and love.

Not that they had it immediately. We know they constantly misunderstood Jesus and tried to steer in other ways. They made promises they did not keep and they abandoned Jesus when the going got tough. But they had the one thing that nearly all great leaders have in their formation: a mentor who knows they are not perfect, forgives their limitations, tells them the truth, brings them back to what they are actually on about and inspires them by what he says and how he lives.

Sometimes we think the Gospel always demands a very different lifestyle to the one we have, and sometimes it does, but today's Gospel should be taken seriously, not literally. Luke tells us that the disciples 'left everything and followed him'. We know that following Jesus did not demand of Peter, for example, that he abandon his family. And we also know that the disciples returned to their work of fishing a number of times in their life with Jesus.

Luke is telling us, then, that to follow Jesus is a radical option and that we have to divest ourselves of anything that stops us serving the kingdom of God. Conversely, it follows that we have to cultivate the very things that draw us on in the Christian life. For most of us the departures necessary in following Jesus are in our hearts.

Furthermore in this story, Luke is also telling us about the great number of converts attracted to the Christian life. We know that some of these were notorious sinners. No doubt the leaders of the early Church had anxieties about admitting them.

By relating the story of the sinful Peter being called by Jesus, Luke reassures the community that as long as anyone is able to leave behind the destructiveness of their previous life they can, with guidance, become a disciple of Jesus.

Luke teaches that it is not for us to condemn anyone caught up in the net of salvation: simply to trust in God's love and compassion that visits the sick and well alike.

May we pray in this Eucharist for the humility in the Church to accept that God can turn our judgments, laws, customs, protocols and management strategies upside down and sometimes bring forward, from the most unexpected quarters, leaders who show us new dimensions to God's power shining through our human weakness.

© 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.

Finding A New Patronal Name

Although we have already received a number of suggestions, the search for a new patron for a new parish continues.

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.

Please give this some thought and prayer and make a contribution to the future of our parish.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings: 1st Isaiah 6:1-8; 2nd 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; **Gospel** Luke 5:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people. 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...)

4th Week in Ordinary Time, Year I

Monday 10 February
Memorial of St Scholastica

Tuesday 11 February
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 12 February
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 13 February
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 14 February
Memorial of Sts Cyril and Methodius
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 15 February
5.30m Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 16 February
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
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 February:

Michael Banister, Barney Hartnett, Edie Raymond, Jeffery Bunt, Eileen Maurer, Alban Maurer, Florence Farah, Lorraine Harris, Allan Turner, Patricia Byron, Katherine Garrison, Neville Baldwin, Georgeina Richardson. John Holstein, Edward Holstein, Frank Turner, Harrison Meyn Jack Reibel, Ethel Hannan, May Gehrig, Matilda Smith, Hyatt Rose, Kathleen Dickerson, Bernie Holstein, Terry Johnson, Marie Williams.

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.



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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray: "Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life."

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (16 February) in our Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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.