



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.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

9 MARCH 2025

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.

And The Nominees Are...

The nomination of candidates for our new parish patron closed on Friday 28 February. My thanks to those parishioners who made a suggestion.

In alphabetical order, the nominees are...

St Aidan of Lindisfarne
St Bartholomew
St Elizabeth Seton
St Francis of Assisi
St Gregory the Great
St Isidore the Farmer
St John Bosco
St John Paul II
St Jude Thaddeus
St Lazarus of Bethany
St Marcellin Champagnat
St Mark (the Evangelist)
St Maximilian Kolbe
St Oliver Plunkett
St Peter Chanel
St Rita of Cascia
St Thomas Aquinas

A small booklet has been prepared with some biographical information on each of the nominees, and is available at the back of our churches this weekend. It is also available for download from the website (go to the 'Resources' page from the main menu).

A vote to discern the new patron will be taken on **Sunday 23 March** with the results announced on Sunday 30 March.

After the vote has been taken, the Bishop will be advised so that the name of our new patron can be included in the decree establishing our new parish.

It is important as we move into this next stage in the process of discerning a new patronal saint that we do so carefully and with some

deliberation.

While we may have a particular favourite among the list of possible patrons that have been put forward—particularly if we were the one who nominated them—the **primary** determining factor should *not* be a question of personal taste or preference, but rather about whether the new patron can help us to bed down the new reality of having two parishes come together into one.

The new patron, whoever they might be, must be able to be someone around whom the new parish community—and its various communities—can gather. Their own history, their own story, their own relationship with Jesus is as important, if not more important, than their place in popular piety, either our own or more broadly.

To that end, **before you cast your vote** I would ask that you pray both for guidance in your own vote and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide the community's discernment of who will be our patron and thus the focus of establishing our new parish identity.

Read the life of each of the saints who have been put forward, both in the prepared booklet and via your own resources. **Think** and **pray** about how each nominee might allow our new parish community to come together into the new reality that will come into being on 1 July.

Discuss the possibilities with other parishioners, making sure that you **listen** to what they might have to say with both an open spirit and a courteous manner. **Do not** engage in lobbying for your own preference, but be **open** to what God might be saying to you through other people.

Come to Mass on Sunday 23 March ready to cast your vote. You will be asked to express your preferences (at least 1 through 10, though you can continue with more if you wish) on the list of candidates. This is the same process used in most of our civil elections for the lower house of parliaments, so it won't be completely unfamiliar.

For those parishioners who might not be attending Mass on Sunday, don't panic! The ballot paper will be available on the website in the days leading up to Sunday 23 March. You will be able to download the ballot, complete it, and then return it to me electronically (by 5pm on Monday 24 March) for it to be included in the counting.

Alternatively, you could email me with your candidates in your order of preference by the same deadline (the email to use is andrew.doohan@mn.catholic.org.au) and thus you will have your vote included in the count.

With thanks for all your contributions...

Fr Andrew

Dungog Lenten Group

This year's Lenten Group in Dungog will gather every Thursday during Lent in St Mary's Church beginning at 7pm.

Each gathering will consist of approximately 45 minutes of scripture reflection, discussion and prayer (using the Lenten booklets from the Diocese of Wollongong) followed by the Stations of the Cross for those who wish to stay on.

World Day of Prayer 2025

You are invited to join together for the World Day of Prayer for 2025 at St Paul's Anglican Church, 21 Duke Street, Paterson, on Thursday 13 March commencing at 10.30am. All are invited, and are asked to bring lunch to share in the church hall.

This year we pray for the Cook Islands, with the theme "I made you wonderful".

Where's the Music?

During the Season of Lent, there will be no Recessional Hymn during the 9.30am Mass. The Mass will end with the final blessing, and the departure of the presider.

This keeping of silence at the end of our Mass will be part of our communal Lenten discipline, a means of encouraging reflection as we leave the celebration of Eucharist to go out into the world.

Patronal Feast for Clarence Town

The patronal feast of our church at Clarence Town will be celebrated on Monday 17 March with Mass at 5.30pm, to be followed by some light refreshments under the pergola.

All parishioners are welcome to come along for this celebration. Please bring some goodies to share, and then join us for good food and good company.

Reintroduction of the Chalice

My thanks to those who indicated their desire for the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice in our communities. There is sufficient numbers who wish to do so, and we will aim to reintroduce the Chalice from the **first Sunday of April**.

This will give us the opportunity to ensure that any ministers have the opportunity to receive some formation beforehand.

I would ask those parishioners who are prepared to assist in this liturgical ministry to let me know so that formation can be arranged and rosters updated where necessary.

Fr Andrew

Embracing the Jubilee Year 2025

The Jubilee Year of 2025 calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. It is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

There will be a number of special events across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and these will be advertised in good time in the bulletin.

In addition, there are a number of churches across the diocese that have been officially designated as 'pilgrimage sites':

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary, Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, East Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Scone
- Sts Patrick and Brigid Church, Cooranbong

These locations will be prepared to welcome groups and individuals on pilgrimage over the coming weeks and months—so perhaps if you'd like to make a pilgrimage, don't do it tomorrow but give it a bit of time.

Ecumenical Service

An ecumenical church service will take place on Sunday 30 March in Christ Church Anglican Church, Dowling Street, Dungog, commencing at 6.30pm. All are welcome. More details to follow in future bulletins.

Potential Changes At The Cathedral

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is currently facing a space constraint in what was supposed to be the 'temporary' crypt located under the altar in the St John the Baptist Oratory in Maitland (the 'old cathedral'). It is here that the deceased Bishops are interred.

Various solutions to increase crypt space have been considered by diocesan leadership and it is now time to consult with parishioners and other stakeholders in the broader community in order that an informed decision can be made.

Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend one of two community consultation sessions to be held on Tuesday 11 March at 10am and repeated at 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

For more information, and to download the consultation prospectus, visit the diocesan website (www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/).

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 :)

Project Compassion Resources Available

A small number of Project Compassion resources are available in our churches this weekend for those who may wish to avail themselves.

If you cannot get your hands on something, please consider making a contribution to Project Compassion by using a plain envelope with your details written on the front if you would like a receipt issued.



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.

Further information about the 2025 journey for completing Christian Initiation can be found 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.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings:

1st Deuteronomy 26:4-10

2nd Romans 10:8-13

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Responsorial Psalm:

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Memorial Acclamation

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

Baptisms Next Week

We look forward to welcoming **Luca Trentori**, together with his family and friends, as we celebrate his Baptism at 10.30am next Saturday at St Mary's, Dungog.

We look forward to welcoming **Rollo and Sobi Booth**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate their baptism at 11am next Sunday at St Mary's, Dungog.

Repent!

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In March:

Gordon Smith, Dan Harrison, Linda Gleeson, Vincent Smith, Marie Williams, Gwen Richards, Alexander Loudon, Claude McGinty, Herb Trappel, Allan Turner, Arthur Preece, Thelma Lowe, Joyce Copus, Leo Maher, Matthew Harding, Vincent Lane, Vince Banister, Gerry Gehrig, Terry Johnson, Phillip Gippel, Sr Patricia McGinty RSM.

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, Tom Redgrove, John Newton, Gloria Curry.

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

1st Week of Lent

Monday 10 March

Tuesday 11 March

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 12 March

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 13 March

NO MASS World Day of Prayer in Paterson
(see notice in the bulletin)

Friday 14 March

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 15 March

10.30am Baptism @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 16 March

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Baptisms @ Dungog

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:
"Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their difference."

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (16 March) 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 safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important. Our Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care.

We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

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.