



# 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, Summerhill via Vacy.

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

### 13 APRIL 2025

#### 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

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

#### Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm

#### Other Contacts

Clarence Town

Val Preece (0403 252 434, 4996 4474, or email  
vpreece15@gmail.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

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](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au).

**Safeguarding Promotion:** For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew.

#### A Note About the Proclamation of the Passion

The proclamation of the Passion of the Lord at the Masses this weekend will be undertaken by three voices, i.e., two readers plus myself.

Although your personal missal might indicate the option of **C** for the **Crowd**, such a possibility is not part of the official liturgical practice of the Liturgy of the Word. All readings from Scripture are meant to be proclaimed and heard (an oral and aural interaction) rather than followed along so that someone can 'say their line' at the right time.

So if you choose to follow the Passion of the Lord in your personal missal – and I really hope that you might put it aside to listen instead – please **DO NOT** join in playing the Crowd.

With thanks,

*Fr Andrew*

#### Triduum Rosters

A roster will circulate with Fr Andrew this weekend to all our Masses giving people the opportunity to indicate their availability for liturgical ministry on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and at the Easter Vigil.

Please take the chance to indicate your willingness or give Fr Andrew a call or drop him an email to add your name to the roster.



## Communion from the Chalice

Now that Communion from the Chalice has been reintroduced in our parish communities, I would take this opportunity to remind all parishioners of a couple of things:

1. Communion by 'self-intinction' is not permitted under the current liturgical discipline of the Church. Communion by intinction requires the priest or other minister to dip the Host into the Precious Blood, and then place the Host on to the tongue of the communicant.

The 'taking' of Communion by 'self-intinction' is contrary to our understanding that we receive Communion rather than *take* Communion.

2. As previously mentioned, please refrain from receiving Communion from the Chalice if you are unwell (cold, flue, snuffle, etc) out of respect to your fellow parishioners.

With thanks in advance for your consideration.

Fr Andrew

## Annual Holy Land Collection

The Holy Land Commissariat in Australia writes:

"The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, 18 April. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, parishes, and orphanages.

"It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

"Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges, financial and spiritual, and so we again ask Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support.

"Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday."

The collection taken up on Good Friday is for the support of the Holy Land, and envelopes for this purpose will also be available over the Easter weekend. Alternatively, you may wish to send the money electronically to the respective Parish accounts (see details opposite – please specify the purpose of your transfer) which we be added to the amount remitted by the Parish.

Please be as generous as you can in support of the Holy Land and its people.

Fr Andrew

## Paschal Triduum Timetable 2025

With the Sacred Paschal Triduum rapidly coming to us, the schedule of *liturgical celebrations* across the Holy Three Days is as follows:

### Holy Thursday, 17 April 2025

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
St Mary's, Dungog

### Good Friday, 18 April 2025

3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord  
St Mary's, Dungog

### Holy Saturday, 19 April 2025

6.30pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
St Mary's, Dungog

### Easter Sunday, 20 April 2025

8am Easter Mass of the Resurrection  
St Patrick's, Clarence Town  
10am Easter Mass of the Resurrection  
St Helen's, East Gresford

*In addition*, I will be praying the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer publicly in St Mary's, Dungog at 8.30am on Good Friday and Holy Saturday if any parishioners would like to join me. I only ask that you let me know in advance so I can prepare a resource to assist you.

The *Stations of the Cross*, a public devotion rather than the liturgy of the Church, will be prayed at **10am** on Good Friday at St Helen's, East Gresford, at St Patrick's, Clarence Town, and at St Mary's, Dungog.

Fr Andrew

## Dungog Shire Palliative Care Volunteers

The Dungog Shire Palliative Care Volunteers are celebrating their 30th anniversary...and you're invited!

A morning tea will take place on Wednesday 14 May from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Anglican Church Hall, Dowling Street, Dungog.

Please RSVP by Thursday 1 May to 0457 846 806.

## ACBC Election Statement

The Election Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops is now available, and can be found on the 'Resources' page of our website.

## Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated in the evening of Tuesday 15 April at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West commencing at 7pm.

This Mass is a significant annual liturgical event for our Diocese, and all parishioners are welcome to join together to celebrate with Bishop Michael, his clergy, and others from across the diocese.

## Homily by Richard Leonard

The crowd who cheered on Palm Sunday proved to be a fickle lot. It took them no time at all to move from the cries of adulation of Palm Sunday to the derision of Good Friday, and back again, with frightening speed. What is most worrying, however, is that we can do the same just as easily.

Take, for example, in our own country, where on the one hand we tell the original inhabitants of this great land that they have some claim on it and then change the rules when they begin to make such a claim. You don't have to look far for Calvary. Try being black in a white world.

We bask in the myth that this is the land of the fair go, but seem to think that this fair go is primarily for white people born of an Anglo Celtic, Christian background. You don't have to search too far for Calvary. Try being Asian in a Eurocentric world.

As Christians we affirm that women and men are made in the image and likeness of God, but in the Church and society we find new arguments to keep men in power and women only fractionally developing their God-given talents. You don't have to seek out Calvary. Try being a woman in a man's world.

Our society tells the gay community they may have been born with a desire for a same sex partner and that no one should discriminate against them, yet we deny them basic rights for legal security and dignity. You don't have to hunt for Calvary. Try being gay in a straight world.

Our society sings the praises of IVF and its associated technologies and proclaim how hundreds more couples are now 'complete' as a result of having a baby and yet each year we abort tens of thousands of unborn babies. You don't have to explore far to find Calvary. Try being a pregnant mother in an unsympathetic and death-dealing world.

The reality is that Palm Sunday is not a yearly historical pageant. It is the day when we hear proclaimed that:

- our God knows what it's like to be heralded on Sunday and condemned on Friday;
- our God loved us so much that he laid down his own life so that we might live;
- our God showed us that the price of walking on palm branches is in the taking up of the cross.

And how do we do that? How do we face all the Calvaries of our world and be Christ-like?

In the Passion we are told that Jesus did five things:

- He healed the ear of the High Priest's servant;
- He spoke the truth to Pilate;
- He empathised with the women of Jerusalem;

- He forgave those who condemned him;
- He had compassion toward the other criminal being crucified.

And here's the rub: in facing our personal passion and being with those who face their Calvary we are called to do likewise.

If Holy Week means anything it means we end this week as we began it – processing. Walking away from inflicting pain to being a healer, desisting with lies and speaking the truth, resisting the temptation to judge and embracing empathy as our first response and, always and everywhere, being generous with forgiveness and compassion. No more and no less is asked of us if we are to follow 'the King of Love on Calvary'.

© 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.



## 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

## Today's Liturgy:

### Scripture Readings:

**Ent** Luke 19:28-40

**1st** Isaiah 50:4-7

**2nd** Philippians 2:6-11

**Gospel** Luke 22:14 – 23:56

### Responsorial Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

### Gospel Acclamation:

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names

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.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:

*"Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times."*

## Next Morning Tea at Dungog

The next scheduled morning tea in Dungog would normally fall on Easter Sunday...which is a shame since there'll be no Mass in Dungog on Easter Sunday morning. So we will have to wait until the third Sunday of May instead.

## In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

### Those Who Have Died:

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In April:** Bede Gehrig, Ruth Jones, Lenore McDermott, Paula Murphy, Robert Holdom, Dorothy Bowtell, Rex Garland, Bruno Rocco, Herbert John Preece, Allie Allen, Peter Allen, Tom O'Driscoll, Paddy Kilpinen, Bill Tyne, Neil Faber, Lyn Barry, Michael Flanagan, Paul Cooper.

**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.

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

### Holy Week

Monday 14 April

Tuesday 15 April

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 16 April

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 17 April

*Holy Thursday*

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper @ Dungog

Friday 18 April

*Good Friday*

10am Stations of the Cross @ Dungog

10am Stations of the Cross @ Clarence Town

10am Stations of the Cross @ East Gresford  
3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord @ Dungog

Saturday 19 April

*Holy Saturday*

6.30pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night @ Dungog

Sunday 20 April

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

8am Mass of the Resurrection @ Clarence Town

10am Mass of the Resurrection @ East Gresford

## 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.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog and Gresford acknowledge the people of the Worimi and Wonnarua nations, 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.