



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.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

11 MAY 2025

Parish Staff

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

Presbytery & Parish Office

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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.

Habemus Papam!

As everyone will know by now, a new Bishop of Rome has been elected, and our Church, without a leader since the death of Pope Francis, will now be led by Pope Leo XIV.

Born in the United States in 1955, Robert Francis Prevost (now Leo XIV) joined the Order of Saint Augustine in 1977, studying both in Chicago (his hometown) and in Rome.

After finishing his studies, he was sent to Peru by his religious order, serving in a number of roles in that country, before taking up a leadership role within the Augustinians between 1999 and 2013, including as the Prior General (the worldwide leader).

After leaving that leadership role, he returned to Peru, where he served as Bishop in the Diocese of Chiclayo, as well as a number of other roles. During his time as Bishop of Chiclayo, he became a citizen of Peru.

In 2023, the late Pope Francis appointed him as the Prefect (Head) of the Dicastery for Bishops and created him a Cardinal in the same year. Along with his primary role, Cardinal Prevost (as he then was) served on a number of other dicasteries bringing his broad expertise and commitment to the global Church to the fore.

His brother Cardinals elected him as Bishop of Rome, and thus our Pope, on the fourth ballot of the 2025 Conclave that convened on Wednesday 7 May to elect the successor to the late Pope Francis.

Pope Leo XIV is the 267th successor of Saint Peter.

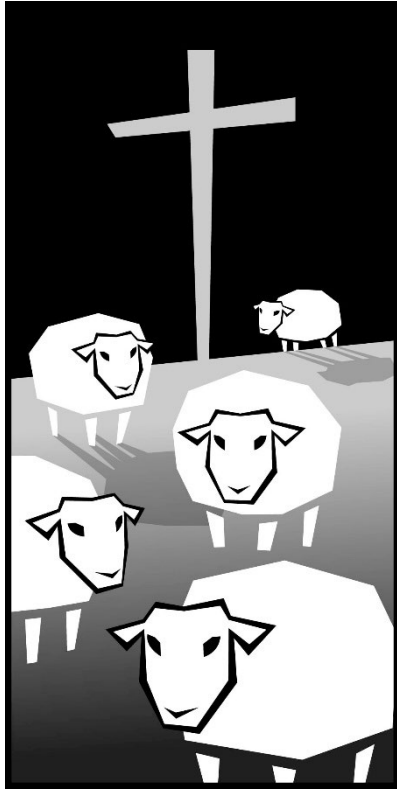
Let's pray for our Pope as he takes up leadership of our Church in these challenging times for it and for the world.

Fr Andrew

Finalising Project Compassion

It would be appreciated if any remaining Project Compassion contributions could be sent to the Parish Office this weekend.

This will allow the finalisation of the annual appeal and the remittance of the collection to Caritas Australia in order that it be put to good use.



Scam Email Warning

It was brought to my attention during the week that an email is circulating, supposedly from me, informing the recipient that I need them to do something from me.

This is a well-known scam format.

To be clear, I would never – indeed, will never – send an email simply asking you to do something for me, or do me a favour, etc. If I feel a need to ask someone to do something for me, I will call you directly or speak to you face to face. I was always taught this is the correct and polite approach.

If you receive an email from “me”, double check it comes from my official diocesan email address, if it doesn't than be sceptical. If in doubt, call me.

Fr Andrew



The Universalis App

For those who like to pray the Liturgy of the Hours – or those like Fr Andrew who are bound to do so – there exists an App for your phone or tablet device which can make this easier, especially when travelling.

Called *Universalis*, it can be downloaded from the App Store for whichever style of phone you have, and the one-time purchase is very cheap (under \$20).

For more information about this app, you can visit their website www.universalis.com which has all the information you might need.

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.

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.

Homily by Michael Tate

If you have a look at a map of the world and look for Cyprus and then go across the Mediterranean Sea to the Turkish coast and then travel 100 miles over mountains, one comes to Antioch in Psidia – the setting for today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

If Paul had never gone there, we might never be here!

But Paul did go there, and we are here!

What do I mean?

Paul and Barnabas, being of Jewish stock, spoke about the gospel in the Synagogue at Antioch. They got such a rough reception – such abuse and slander – that they said this to their Jewish audience:

'It was necessary to speak the Word of God to you first. Since you are rejecting it... we are turning to the Gentiles'!

'Gentiles' is simply the word for non-Jews. You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, precisely because of Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth.

Christianity could have remained a Jewish sect, but because of Paul your identity as a Christian does not depend on being Jewish.

We are 'Catholic' Christians precisely because of Paul.

Catholic is simply the word for universal. Clearly, the Catholic Church is universal in terms of geographical reach, but is it truly universal?

We have all heard of Médecins sans Frontières – Doctors without Borders.

We should be the same in the Catholic Church. We have the potential. But at the moment we are too Euro-centric. What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

And now [we've had] a non-European Pope! Pope Francis [came] from South America which has its own way to celebrate and understand and live the Gospel.

And there is further reason for hope. This is the first truly global generation – with internet blogs and chat rooms, with unparalleled opportunities and means to travel.

And Catholic Christianity, embracing the huge range of ethnic diversity, is the perfect vehicle for

the expression of the spiritual dimension of their common humanity. A global church for global citizens!

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ. That is what today's Gospel tells us.

For Australians, this is hard to visualise correctly. We think of a large mob of sheep with no individuality being herded by whips and dogs.

By contrast, the flock in Jesus' time was quite small – 20-30 animals – and the shepherd in Jesus' time, and still today around the hills of Jerusalem, calls each sheep by name and leads from the front – they follow his voice to the pastures which will nourish them.

In all our diversity, that is who we are – Voice-followers.

None of us is born tone-deaf to the voice of Our Lord, the Good Shepherd.

But it takes a good teacher to help us hear the voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the official assistant-shepherds in the Church – the Bishops who carry a crozier, which is a shepherd's staff.

But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, an Anglican Priest, a Catholic Dominican Friar at Oxford, and the inspirational Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

They have all been assistant-shepherds to the One Good Shepherd – Our Lord Jesus Christ – who says about you and says about me, the Gentiles in the Catholic Church:

'My sheep listen to my voice,
and I recognise them,
and they follow me;
and I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish,
and no one shall snatch them from my hand.'

That is a voice worth following!

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings:

1st Acts 13:14, 43-52
2nd Revelation 7:9, 14-17
Gospel John 10:27-30

Responsorial Psalm:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at St Mary's, Dungog will take place after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (18 May). Please bring a plate to share, and stay to enjoy refreshment, conversation and company.

Baptism Next Week

We look forward to welcoming **Lexi Pringle**, along with her family and friends, as we celebrate her baptism next Sunday at 11am in St Mary's Church, Dungog.

Papal Prayer Intention for May:

"Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised."

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In April: Ray Johnson, Danny Robertson, Eileen Moylan, Nita Ford, Mary Kealy, Ted McFadyen, Evelyn Martin, Clarke Deards, Don Trow, Margaret Smith, Alvin Robertson, Carmel Hudson, Steve Bartlett, Fr Peter Williams, Ian Tope, Dulcie Hepworth, Jenny Szymec, Catherine Atkins, Irene Byron, Bill & Hannah Byron, Helen Cooper, Rodney Ryan, Gordon Ryan, Joyce Little, Jan Graboski, Betty Vell, Cecilia Catherine Wilson, Pam Williams, Maisie Trow, Bruce Clark.

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, Gwen Trappel.

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

Fourth Week of Easter

Monday 12 May

Tuesday 13 May
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 14 May
Feast of St Matthias
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 15 May
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 16 May
9.30am Mass @ Dungog (joined by Yrs 5 & 6 from St Joseph's School)

Saturday 17 May
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 18 May
Fifth Sunday of Easter
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog
11am Baptism @ Dungog

Alleluia!

