



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

St Francis' Parish

Catholic Parish of Dungog Gresford

Incorporating **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.

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, C

31 AUGUST 2025

Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420
Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
Mrs Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

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Office Hours The Parish Office is staffed on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 1pm.

Parish Bulletin is published each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

Other Contacts - Clarence Town - Val Preece (0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or email vpreece15@gmail.com
Gresford - Faith Banister (0427 536 248)

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

Connect with us via social media Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads – all with the same username (dgcatholic).

Parish School

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

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A Pastoral Note...

Today's marking of "Social Justice Sunday", like other such occasions ("World Mission Day", "Sea Sunday", etc) are not liturgical celebrations and do not supplant the observance of a Sunday. It will surprise no one, I'm sure, that Sundays are always of special significance in the liturgical calendar.

Days like today, while of importance, are generally more about a particular issue or theme, are often associated with fundraising appeals, and can even be totally unrelated to the Christian faith in any way.

Which is why, when they roll around, they might get mentioned during a homily, there might be posters in Church buildings, there might be fundraising materials available, but they will not supplant either the readings or the proper prayers of the

Sunday.

In Catholic liturgical practice, Sundays don't have individual themes and, when taken as a whole, are seen as the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery, which is 'shorthand' for the revelation of God that is contained in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Nothing, no matter how worthy the cause might be, is more important than entering, again and again, into the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

It is only by doing so week by week, month by month, year by year, that we are able to begin to grasp exactly what is at the heart of all that we believe to be true and worthwhile.

Have a wonderful week...

Fr Andrew

Help Required in Clarence Town

We're looking for someone who might be able and prepared to take communion on a weekly basis to a housebound parishioner in Clarence Town.

If this might be something you can assist with, please speak with Fr Andrew.

Graced Encounters in the Community of Creation: Cultivating Hope in Action

Join presenter, Dr Ann-Maree O'Beirne rsm, for a Season of Creation Workshop on Wednesday 10 September.

With a focus on the Ignatian motif of 'finding God in all things', this workshop will explore the wisdom of living our lives through a lens of grace that generates hope for all in our community of creation. Choose from one of two sessions as we take time to discover how God is present in all of creation as experienced in our everyday lives.

For more information and to register for your preferred session, visit t.ly/UUKwR.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Our Diocesan community will observe the annual Perpetual Day of Remembrance on Sunday 14 September.

This day is a public acknowledgement of the deep harm by the Church in the past, particularly the pain and suffering endured by survivors of abuse, their families, and those that have been lost. It is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to remembering what happened so as not to allow those things to be repeated.

Our parish community will commemorate this day in our Masses on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

What's the cost?

Jesus' message about humility is as relevant today as it was in the first century. It is part of human nature to want to fit in and to want to belong. Sometimes we are tempted to seek this acceptance at any cost. When our sense of belonging is achieved through the harming, humiliation or exploitation of others then the price is too high. When our desire for the latest fashion comes at the expense of others being able to simply live, then the price is too high. When we lift ourselves up by putting others down, then the price is too high.

"Social Justice Sunday"

The Australian Church acknowledges today, Sunday 31 August, as "Social Justice Sunday".

The Australian Catholic Bishops' 2025 Social Justice Statement is entitled *Signs of Hope on the Edges: Serving Homeless People With Mental Ill-Health*.

The full statement can be found on the parish website on the 'Resources' page, along with a prayer card for this year's intention.

Winter Is With Us...

With the arrival of colder weather, the possibility of developing colds and flu increases.

A quick reminder to all parishioners that when you are unwell it may be a wise and generous move to not attend Mass, at least not without taking some precautions to ensure you don't share your cold and flu with other parishioners.

A reminder, as well, that if you are unwell, we ask you to refrain from receiving Communion from the Chalice while you remain unwell.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hospitality

In the first century, hospitality carried with it certain rules and expectations. If you were the recipient of hospitality, there was an obligation on you to return hospitality if it were within your means. Hospitality meant more than feeding people. It meant extending welcome to people even if you didn't know them. There was an obligation to extend welcome and hospitality to anyone who asked for it. Travellers knew that they could enter a village and ask for a meal and a bed and they would be provided. Jesus reinterpreted this obligation of hospitality and extended to anyone in need.

Homily by Richard Leonard

One of the most basic human responses to anything new is to ask, 'What's in it for me?' We would like to think our motives are pure and our interests are for others, but there is often a nagging voice reminding us that selfish desires are never far from the surface. That said, we all know heroic individuals who care for sick spouses or children, who go to faraway places to give those in need their time and talent or who stay at home and do the same in their local neighbourhood. That's what makes them heroic. There is nothing in it for them; they are drawn by bonds of love, faith or by a desire to create a better world.

There are at least two ways we can hear Jesus' words in today's gospel. The first is as a strong challenge about social justice.

National boundaries mean nothing to God. All people are equal in God's sight, so the banquet Jesus refers to has implications for how we share the riches with which we have been blessed with others in the world. The poor, crippled, lame and blind of our world are the majority of God's children who mainly live in the Third World. They are our brothers and sisters. At the banquet of life Christians are called to give priority to the needs of these people, not only because they have a just claim on our resources, but also because they can't do anything for us in return. They purify our motives. When we link our concern, time, talent, career, and money with these children of God, we tame that nagging question, 'What's in it for me?' with a firm reply, 'Very little – except God's justice.'

A somewhat comforting angle to take on this gospel is more psychological. Many of us, when we come to God at any time, try to dress ourselves up to look better than we are! This gospel reminds us that at Christ's banquet, however, it's not the poised and perfect who are most welcome, but the vulnerable. What does this mean for us who pray and celebrate the Eucharist? That God embraces those parts of us that are in greatest need of his love and healing – where we are poor, crippled, blind and lame.

We know this it is true because if Jesus is telling us to host the poor and broken at our tables, then as the perfect host he must do exactly the same with us at this Eucharistic meal as well.

When I was a child we referred to our finest clothes as our 'Sunday best' and we wore them proudly to Mass. Not only did we look good, we acted the part as well. Everyone was on best behaviour for the entire parish to see. Now, I have nothing against dressing with care and behaving well at Mass; it can be a sign of our self-respect, our courtesy toward others and our devotion to God. But God cares more about what's going on inside

us. We can never hide from God, especially at the Eucharist because we have been invited to be here, not as we would like to be, but as we are.

May this Eucharist – this taste of heaven's justice – give us renewed courage to think beyond our self and national interests, and show to others the hospitality of God that has been lavished on us. May we discover that where faith is concerned, the answer to 'What's in it for me?' is 'More than we can ever hope or imagine.'

© 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.

Amen

Be careful of simple words said often.

'Amen' makes demands
like an unrelenting school master;
fierce attention to all that is said;
no apathy, no preoccupation,
no prejudice permitted.

'Amen'; We are present.
We are open, we are of one mind.
We understand. Here we are;
we are listening to your word.

'Amen' makes demands
like a signature on a dotted line:
sober bond to all that goes before;
no hesitation, no half-heartedness,
no mental reservations allowed.

'Amen': We support. We approve.
we are of one mind. We promise.
May this come to pass. So be it.
Be careful when you say 'Amen'.

Barbara Schmich Searle

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

Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 1 September

Tuesday 2 September

NO MASS Fr Andrew in Medowie for an event

Wednesday 3 September

Memorial of St Gregory the Great

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 4 September

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 5 September

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

4pm Baptism @ Dungog

Saturday 6 September

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 7 September

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Next Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will take place next Sunday (7 September) after the 8am Mass under the pergola (weather permitting).

Please bring a plate to share, and then join us to share good food, good conversation and good company.

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August:

Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Jean Kenney, Shirley Wade, Allen Kearns, Tony Townsend, Molly Turner.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, 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, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Eileen Chalenor, Joyce Byron.

Papal Prayer Intention for August: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

Today's Liturgy:

Today's Scripture Readings:

First: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

Second: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Responsorial Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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



Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important. St Francis of Assisi Parish is 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 all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

St Francis of Assisi Parish acknowledges 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

A/c No: 100 005 170

Reference: Your Surname or other reference