



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.

# THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

## 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

### Presbytery & Parish Office

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

P: (02) 4992 1477  
E: office@dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au  
W: www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

**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*)

P: (02) 4992 1377  
E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au  
W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

### A Pastoral Note...

Our parish is due to host the next ecumenical service in Dungog on Sunday 30 November, with the service beginning at 6.30pm.

While that may seem some time away, there's not really a lot of time to organise things, particularly when we need to provide advanced notice to the other churches.

Sunday 30 November is, at least in our liturgical calendar, the First Sunday of Advent, and that will determine the nature and shape of the service that night – something along the lines of "Advent Lessons and Carols" may be most appropriate.

While I am more than happy to coordinate the preparation of the liturgical side of things for the evening, that is only one aspect. The other aspect, and perhaps the more important aspect, is the

fellowship opportunity that will follow afterwards in the Parish Hall.

If there was someone, or a small group of people, who might be prepared to take on the task of coordinating the refreshments, I would be most grateful. Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

We've also been asked about hosting the local celebration of "World Day of Prayer" on Friday 6 March 2026. If again there was a small group of parishioners prepared to take responsibility for this, I would love to hear from you, otherwise we may have to forgo the hosting responsibilities in 2026. Again, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Have a wonderful week...

Fr Andrew

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Perpetual Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for our whole faith community to come together in prayer and remembrance – honouring survivors, acknowledging the wrongs of the past, and renewing our commitment to building a Church that is safe and life-giving for all.

Each year in September, our Diocese marks the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. This day stands as a solemn commitment to truth, healing, and accountability. It was established in Maitland-Newcastle as a local enduring response to the failures of the Church to protect children and the ongoing pain of survivors.

Thank you for joining us in prayer.

## Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

Safeguarding is the measures taken to protect the safety, human rights and well-being of individuals, which allow people to live free from abuse, harm, and neglect.

At its core, safeguarding is about promoting the safety and well-being of others, creating and maintaining safe activities and environments, and preventing abuse and harm.

## Safeguarding Sunday

As a national Church, today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Scriptures, we find clear and strong references to the need for justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to a safe, welcoming, and hope-filled Church.

In our everyday lives, let us be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

## Papal Prayer Intention for September

*"Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect."*

# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## Lifted up

*The gospel of John, written later than the other three canonical gospels, reflects a very different understanding of the cross. In this gospel writer's imagery, the cross is the means by which Jesus is 'raised up'. This theology flows through the entire gospel and in today's excerpt, from very early in the gospel, we see the language of the Son of Man being "lifted up". Furthermore, it is through the raising up of Jesus that all people are also raised up. It is through the Son, sent by the Father, that all people may enter into eternal life.*

## Blessing at the End of Mass

While we begin every celebration of Mass by together signing ourselves of the Cross, reminding ourselves of the source of our salvation, a lot of people might be surprised to know the Order of Mass does not include a similar requirement at the end of Mass.

But aren't we supposed to cross ourselves when the priest blesses us at the end? The short answer is 'no'.

At the end of Mass, the presider invokes God's blessing on us and makes the Sign of the Cross over the entire assembly that has gathered. God is blessing us through the ministerial action of the presider. We are not blessing ourselves; God is blessing us. And thus, we don't make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves.

Unlike the beginning of Mass when the Missal has a specific instruction, i.e., "the Priest and the faithful...sign themselves", at the end of Mass, the instruction is "The Priest blesses the people". The distinction is clear, and the purpose of each of the actions is very different.

Some scholars have suggested that we ourselves make the Sign of the Cross to 'receive' God's blessing, but this is probably a bit of a stretch and has more to do with piety than liturgy.

The liturgical action is clear – at the end of Mass God's blessing is invoked on us in word and action by the presider.

## Electronic Banking Details

BSB: 066 739  
A/c Name: Catholic Development Fund  
A/c No: 100 005 170  
Reference: Your Surname or other reference

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

*Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time*

Monday 15 September

*Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows*

Tuesday 16 September

*Memorial of Sts Cornelius and Cyprian*

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 17 September

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 18 September

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 19 September

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (to be joined by Kinder, Years 2, 4 and 6 from St Joseph's Primary School)

Saturday 20 September

*Memorial of Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and companions*

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 21 September

*Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## **2025 Dungog Pedalfest**

Rotary Dungog is once again hosting the annual Dungog Pedalfest on the weekend of 27 & 28 September.

As a result of the event, there will be road closures as follows:

Saturday – 27 September – 1pm to 5pm

*Hooke, Lord, Brown and Abelard Streets*

Sunday – 28 September – 9am to 1pm

*Hooke Street, between Abelard & Dowling Streets*

Please be aware of these closures and plan ahead as required.

## **Morning Tea at Dungog**

Morning tea at Dungog will take place next Sunday (21 September) after the 9.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share, and stay to share good food, good conversation and good company.

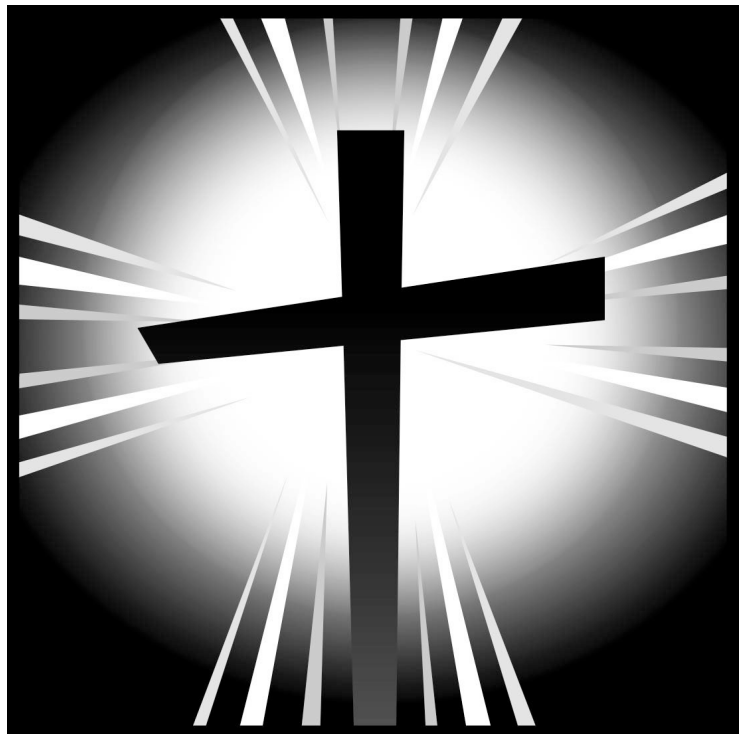
## **In Your Charity, Please Pray For:**

### **Those Who Have Died:**

### **Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In September:**

Annie & Brian Maurer, Peggy Brennan, Godfrey Barry, Tony O'Hearn, Pat Byron, Marjory Neilson, Ivy Hinton, Arthur Sonter, Ron Neilson, Tony & Mary Maurer, Kath Morrow, Frances Amy Young, Rowland Young, Dennis Melmouth, Dot Shurrey, Mary Moylan, Norm Barham, Eileen Godwin, Warren Trappel, Lachlan Tindall, Brian Byron, Margaret Moule, John Melmeth, Beryl Cooper, Paul Evans, Peter Byron, Heather Dawn Atkins, Sr Pat McGinty RSM, Hazel Bridger, John Bridger.

**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, Michele Wilson.



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.

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance Liturgical Resources

### **Penitential Act**

Presider: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

Presider: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

### **Today's Scripture Readings:**

First: Numbers 21:4-9

Second: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

### **Responsorial Psalm:**

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the  
world. Alleluia!

### **Ode to the Light of Christ**

*Following a minute's silence, you are invited to join  
together in praying the Ode to the Light of Christ:*

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.

Let us make good come from evil  
and find sweet in the bitter.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the clouds,  
from the darkness and distress.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,  
those who have walked in darkness.  
Let them see the great Light of God  
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

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### **Memorial Acclamation:**

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

