



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.

# 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, C

## 28 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](mailto:office@dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au)

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

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671

### 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](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dungog.catholic.edu.au)

**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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/dgcatholic)).

### A Pastoral Note...

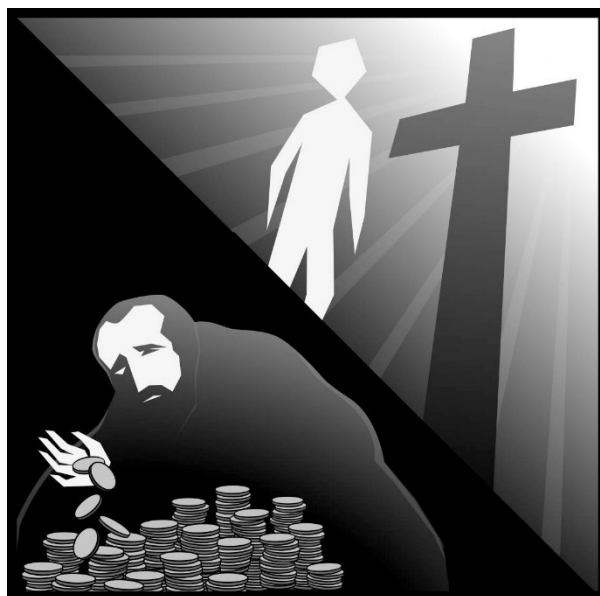
Next Saturday, 4 October, would normally be celebrated by the Church as the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi. For our parish, however, such an occasion is not *merely* a Memorial, but ranks as a Solemnity since St Francis is the Principal Patron of our parish.

In order that we can celebrate this Solemnity well, particularly since it is the first time we will be able to celebrate our Parish Patron since we became one as Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, we will transfer the observance of the day to Sunday 5 October, thus enabling all parishioners to join in celebrating our parish's patron.

Thus, next Sunday will see the use of the Proper and Scripture Readings that are set down for when we celebrate St Francis, rather than those for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Have a wonderful week...

Fr Andrew



### **Fr Andrew Away This Week**

I will be away from the parish this week as I attend the National Liturgy & Music Conference which is taking place in Adelaide.

I will still be contactable by phone and email, though my response times might be a little slower than usual. It may also not be possible for me to attend to more administrative requests while I am away, but I will do so as soon as practicable after my return.

As a result of my absence there will be no weekday Masses this week, and St Mary's, Dungog will be closed during the day.

Fr Andrew

## **gospel focus**

### **Rising from the dead**

*At the end of the passage, Abraham says that if the people of Israel have not been convinced to change their ways by the great prophets throughout time, then "they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead." This is obviously a reference to the fact that by the time of the writing of this gospel - some 50+ years after Jesus - most of the Jews remained unconvinced by the message of Jesus, despite his rising from the dead. It is an indication of the rising tension between Jews and Christians at the time of writing.*

### **Synodality and the New Diocesan Governance Framework**

A letter from Bishop Michael on Synodality and the New Diocesan Governance Framework can be found on the diocesan website under 'Media Releases and Statements'. A limited number of printed copies are available at the back of our churches.

In coming months, an invitation will be extended for those who feel called to contribute their insight, skills, and experience to express their interest to be members of advisory boards and councils.

### **School Holidays**

The students and staff from St Joseph's Primary School, Dungog have commenced the two weeks of holidays between Term 3 and Term 4.

We hope they all have a wonderful time while away from the school and return refreshed for the final term of the 2025 school year.

### **Daylight Saving Time Begins Next Sunday!**

Don't forget to put your clocks forward at 2am next Sunday 5 October when Daylight Saving Time commences for 2025-2026.

Daylight Saving Time will continue until Sunday 5 April 2026 (which also happens to be Easter Sunday!).

### **Baptism Next Week**

We welcome Penelope Crouch, together with her family and friends, as we celebrate her baptism after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday in St Mary's Church, Dungog.

## **scriptural context**

### **Gates**

*The poor man, Lazarus, is described as sitting at the gate of the rich man. We have a picture of Lazarus sitting on the outside looking in at all that he cannot have. Gates are used both literally and metaphorically throughout the gospel of Luke. In the cities and towns of Palestine, gates marked a physical barrier between those who were 'in' and those who were 'out'. But they also marked the boundaries of society. Those who were permitted to sleep within the walls were the acceptable of society. Those who were shut outside the gates and outside the city of an evening were the unacceptable.*

### **Dungog Ecumenical Service**

St Mary's Church, Dungog will host an ecumenical service on Sunday 30 November beginning at 6.30pm. This will be an opportunity for Christians in Dungog and surrounds to come together as we begin our preparation for the celebration of the great festival of Christmas.

The service will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate to share.

### **Claim the Date: Annual Christmas Luncheon**

It may only be mid-September, but there will be a few events in the life of our Parish that you won't want to miss out on.

The annual Christmas Luncheon in the Parish Hall in Dungog will take place on Sunday 30 November, the first Sunday of Advent.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks, but please claim the date now so you don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate together.

## The Introductory Rites – Part 2

Having looked in Part 1 of the general purpose of the Introductory Rites, i.e., "to ensure that the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily", let's have a look at the overall structure of the Introductory Rites, before we then move on to look at each element individually.

The Introductory Rites usually consists of the following individual elements:

- The Entrance
- Reverence to the Altar
- Greeting of the Assembled People
- The Penitential Act
- The Kyrie Eleison
- The Gloria
- The Collect

It should be stressed that this structure is that which is usual at a Sunday Mass and, in a slightly altered form, for a weekday Mass.

There are occasions, however, when the elements outlined take a different format, as the *GIRM* itself recognises in n.46: "In certain celebrations that are combined with Mass according to the norms of the liturgical books, the Introductory Rites are omitted or take place in a particular way".

The most obvious example of this is during a funeral celebrated during Mass, when the placing of Christian symbols supplants part of the usual pattern, replacing as it does the Penitential Act.

Another example is when Baptism is celebrated during Mass on a Sunday, when the Greeting takes place at the door of the church building, and is followed by the Presider asking parents the questions that are required. This is then followed by the Entrance and the Reverence to the Altar, and then immediately moves to the Gloria.

Other similar adaptations occur whenever Mass is combined with the celebration of the Sacraments.

So, while the list of elements outlined above is in the usual pattern, this is not exclusively the case.

Having made that clarification, let's move on to begin looking at each of these elements individually.

The first element is *The Entrance*, which is when the Presider and other ministers (where there are other ministers) enters the church building. The name of the element really gives the whole thing away, doesn't it.

What is less known, however, might be the short phrase that proceeds the instruction for the Presider to enter the church building, as n.47 of the *GIRM* begins thus:

"When the people are gathered, and as the [Presider] enters with the Deacon and ministers, the Entrance Chant begins."

"When the people are gathered". Not when the Presider is ready, not when it's convenient, but when the people are gathered. And as indicated briefly last week, this moment of gathering can be nebulous and uncertain.

This requirement also means that it is simply impossible for Mass to begin before the scheduled time, though it might mean that Mass begins after the scheduled time for any number of reasons.

In some parts of the world, where a more flexible approach to time is prevalent, this moment 'when the people have gathered' might even be harder to determine.

The other observation that must be made at this point is that there is no mention of any introductory remarks being made before the Entrance Chant begins. There is no mention of anyone getting up and welcoming those who have gathered, or introducing the occasion, or the like. It is as simple as 'when the people have gathered' 'the Entrance Chant begins'.

And what is this Entrance Chant? Well, that can wait until Part 3.

*To be continued...*



## Discover Palms Volunteering

Palms International are hosting an [online](#) discovery session for those who might wish to explore this opportunity to develop community self-resilience and create lasting change.

In this special session you'll be able to chat with past Palms volunteers and hear how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities. Explore Palms' [unique opportunities](#) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

Venue: Online – register at [palms.org.au/events](https://palms.org.au/events)

Date: Thursday, 30 October 2025

Time: 7pm – 8.30pm AEDT (NSW/VIC/ACT/TAS)

## Today's Liturgy

### Scripture Readings:

First: Amos 6:1, 4-7  
Second: 1 Timothy 6:11-16  
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

### Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,  
to make you rich out of his poverty.  
Alleluia!

### Memorial Acclamation:

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



## In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

**Those Who Have Died:** Michele Wilson.

### 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.

**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."

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

Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**NB:** Fr Andrew is away this week so there will be no weekday Masses.

Monday 29 September

Feast of Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Tuesday 30 September

Memorial of St Jerome

Wednesday 1 October

Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus

Thursday 2 October

Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

Friday 3 October

Saturday 4 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 5 October

Solemnity of St Francis of Assisi (Parish Patron)

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

10.30am Baptism @ Dungog

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

Morning tea at Clarence Town will take place next Sunday (5 October) after the 8am Mass under the pergola. Please bring a plate to share and stay to share good food, good conversation and good company.

## Electronic Banking Details

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

## 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.

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.