



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.

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 NOVEMBER 2025

Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog
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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...

You know it must be getting close to Christmas when the annual request to provide the times of Masses is received from the diocesan offices.

Such requests seem to get earlier and earlier each year (they don't!), sometimes requiring decisions to be made 'on the hop' (never happens!) in order to meet the seemingly arbitrary deadline imposed (plenty of time!).

I recognise that collating and adding that breadth of information from all the parishes requires some lead time, but it is still *only* the middle of November!

The Christmas Mass schedule will be in the Parish Bulletin from next week so that parishioners can also be prepared well in advance for celebrating the Feast of the Nativity.

Mind you, there is still the whole Sundays of Advent

to be navigated and celebrated, so once again I can only caution about celebrating Christmas too early – particularly since in the Church's liturgical calendar, Christmas *begins* on 25 December and continues until the Sunday after Epiphany (in 2026, that date is 11 January).

So, while we can start *remote* preparations for the celebration of Christmas, they are still *remote*, and we need to be careful in ensuring that we don't *finish* Christmas before it even begins.

In terms of significance Christmas ranks second only to Easter, and marks 'the beginning of our salvation'. I don't know about you, but I'd hate to miss that particular beginning because I'd already moved on to whatever comes next.

Have a wonderful week...

Fr Andrew

Annual Christmas Luncheon

The annual Christmas Luncheon in the Parish Hall in Dungog will take place on Sunday 30 November, the first Sunday of Advent. The cost this year is \$20, which will include the chance to win a lucky door prize, and a ticket in the raffle.

A sign-up sheet is now available on the notice board at the back of St Mary's. Alternatively, please contact Pam Edwards who will gladly add your name to the list.

Fr Andrew Away Next Weekend

A reminder that I will be away from the Parish next weekend as part of my Annual Leave for 2025, leaving on Friday morning, and returning to the Parish the following Monday.

Fr Greg Arnold will be returning to the Parish to celebrate the Parish Masses next weekend.



World Day of the Poor

Today, Sunday, 16 November, is the World Day of the Poor. Today offers us an opportunity to renew our solidarity with those who are poor in our own community and across the world.

In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that "the poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel".

The full text of Pope Leo's message may be found t.ly/KkWkl.

Pope Leo has also issued an Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te* ("I Have Loved You"), which explores in greater depth our relationship with those who are poor. It encourages us to reflect on how we think about those who live in poverty and how we take action to address their plight. The text of Pope Leo's *Dilexi te* may be found t.ly/l8paS.

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.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Comfort

We must remember that the gospel of Luke was written 50-plus years after the death of Jesus. Whilst Jesus may have said something like what is ascribed to him in this passage, we have to accept that the words are influenced to a great extent by the gospel writer. The gospel is not written as a biography but as a means of conveying a message about Jesus. To this end, the writer seeks to give comfort to his audience by having Jesus 'predict' all the things that have indeed come to pass in their community. The message to a struggling community is to 'keep going.'

Are you NICU?

The Parish regularly receives an electronic donation with the name or reference 'NICU', with the money attempting to be sent to our old Presbytery Account (for the 1st collection).

With the change to financial arrangements at the beginning of July, our Presbytery Account has been closed, and the Development Fund needs to manually shift the money that is being directed to the Presbytery Account to our Parish Account.

If this is your regular contribution to the Parish (thank you!), could we ask you to update the details of your transfer, so your donation goes to the Parish Account (see back page for details).

The Introductory Rites – Part 9

In Part 8, we looked at the two other major options that are available for celebrating the Penitential Act. As we continue, we will have a look at the possibility that can be used 'from time to time': the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water.

As previously mentioned, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* says:

"From time to time on Sundays, especially in Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism." (n.51)

This short description of the place of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water contains a number of points that are worthy of comment.

Firstly, the phrase 'From time to time' indicates that this option should not be so common as to exclude the other more usual forms of the Penitential Act that we have previously commented on. As with these other expressions, it should not be so uncommon as to be seen as innovative when it does happen.

How often should it take place? Like many options within the liturgy there is no fixed expression; it should simply happen 'from time to time'. Judging that will be dependent on any number of factors and may well vary from place to place.

One of the most obvious times for its inclusion is 'in Easter Time', as the *GIRM* itself indicates. This time of the liturgical year is intimately connected with baptism and Christian initiation more generally so it makes sense that the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water would be more common during this part of the Church's annual round of celebrations. Indeed, the *GIRM* indicates this when explaining the ritual value of this option as being a "reminder of Baptism".

This connection with Easter does not exclude the celebration of this option at other points in the liturgical year. It simply highlights the natural connection between Easter Time and the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water.

The other natural connection is between water, fundamental to this ritual action, and Baptism. In same way that people dip their fingers into holy water available at the doors of churches and then make the Sign of the Cross, bring sprinkled with holy water should naturally remind those being sprinkled of their baptism and all that flows from it.

The *Order of Mass* does not contain the various texts associated with this ritual action; they are found in Appendix II of *The Roman Missal*, which contains a number of possible blessings texts, both for outside and during Easter Time, texts which

follow an introduction, longer than the standard one of the Penitential Act and a period of silence.

Like many other liturgical texts, these prayers of blessing are wonderful and beautiful, and certainly worthy of being meditated upon outside the actual liturgical celebration itself.

The sprinkling itself follows the blessing and should be accompanied by singing or chant or, if singing is not possible, by instrumental music as the Presider moves through the Assembly. It is customary to make the Sign of the Cross as the sprinkled water is received.

Once the Assembly has been sprinkled and the Presider has returned to the chair, the ritual action is brought to a close by an absolution, though the words are different to those used in the other forms of the Penitential Act, highlighting the slightly different focus of the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water:

"May almighty God cleanse us of our sins, and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom."

Having celebrated this ritual action, the Assembly prepares to move on to the next element of the Introductory Rites.

And that's what we will do, too, in Part 10.

To be continued...

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Apocalyptic writing

Hollywood has done very well out of movies about the end of the world and the term 'apocalypse' has come to have this meaning. However, 'apocalypse' comes from the Greek word meaning, 'to lift a veil' or 'to reveal'. The apocalypse is not the end of the world, but rather the revelation that will come at the end of the world. Writings such as today's gospel passage about what will happen at the end of the world and how God will be revealed are described in the Christian tradition as 'apocalyptic writing'. The most famous of these writings is the book of Revelation.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Malachi 3:19-20
Second: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is close at hand.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

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

Thirty Third Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 17 November
Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary

Tuesday 18 November
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 19 November
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 20 November
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 21 November
Memorial of the Presentation of Mary
NO MASS Fr Andrew on Annual Leave

Saturday 22 November
Memorial of St Cecilia
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 23 November
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog



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.

Morning Tea at Dungog

Morning tea at Dungog will take place TODAY (16 November) after the 9.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. Please stay to share 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

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In November:

Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, Norma Kingston, Alfred Bridger, Neville Trappel, James Osmond.

Those Who Are Sick and Unwell: Warren Wade, Kevin Ward, Keith Edwards, Susan Barlow, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Eileen Chalenor, Joyce Byron, Kay Hackney, Graham McCarthy, Lyn Heaney, Paul Hardy.

Papal Prayer Intention for November: "Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life."