



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

12 APRIL 2026

Presbytery & Parish Office

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

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

Safeguarding Promotion: For all safeguarding concerns within the parish, please contact Fr Andrew in the first instance, or the Office of Safeguarding (www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au).

Social Media Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads – all with the 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

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A Pastoral Note...

We reach the Second Sunday of Easter, which draws a close to our celebration of Easter Day, but not of the Easter Season.

Easter Sunday is one of those rare occasions when the solemnity of the day is so significant that not only is it celebrated with the liturgical rank of a Solemnity, but it is also given an Octave for us to celebrate.

The other obvious example of such an occasion is Christmas Day, which also has an Octave attached to it.

I mention this not only out of interest, but as a reminder that while the society in which we live has already moved on to 'the next big thing', we have not. As Christians, we are still celebrating Easter Day until the end of today, before moving into the longer celebration of the Easter Season.

And that realisation, of course, raises the question of why.

The answer is very simple.

Easter is fundamental to our identity. We are truly a 'Resurrection' people, people who revel not in the Passion and Death of Jesus, but ultimately in his Resurrection. We are who we are, we do what we do, because Jesus has been raised from the dead.

The reality of the Resurrection inspires hope, not just now but in all ages. It has changed the way people view the world from seeing it as a place of despair and lacking something that only ends in death and the void to a reality where death is not the end, neither for Jesus nor for us.

And if that development is not worth celebrating for weeks to come, I don't know what is!

Let's embrace the Easter Season as a chance for us to celebrate the wonder of the Paschal Mystery – despite what others might want to do!

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Bishop Michael's Easter Message for 2026

Bishop Michael has published his Easter message to the diocesan and broader communities. You can watch the video on our webpage by going to t.ly/NWc9.

Sacraments of Initiation in 2026

Confirmation in 2026 will be celebrated on Tuesday 15 September, at 6.30pm. Bishop Michael will be coming to our parish this year.

It should also be noted that following a request from Bishop Michael, future celebrations will take place every second year, i.e., 2028, 2030, etc.

Information and details about the process for celebrating Confirmation and first Communion this year can be found on the parish website by going to t.ly/1X-lb. Please pass this information to anyone who may be interested.

For any enquiries, please contact Fr Andrew.

Research Opportunity – Worldviews and Ways of Life in Australia

Researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) are exploring how perceptions and ways of thinking (i.e., worldviews) relate to experiences and ways of living (i.e., participation and inclusion) in Australia. They are seeking respondents from any and all adult Australian citizens and permanent residents living in Australia, including Australia's broad Christian community, to be well represented in their online anonymous 15-20 minute survey.

You can participate in this meaningful research by completing the survey, and also forwarding it to any others who might be interested. Completing the survey brings with it the chance to win a \$100 voucher.

You can access the link by going to t.ly/vZwl or by using the QR Code. Any questions about the research can be emailed to the researchers at u7870746@anu.edu.au.



International Eucharistic Congress 2028

In 2028, Australia will host a landmark moment as Sydney hosts the International Eucharistic Congress (Eucharist28).

This is more than a single event. It marks the beginning of a journey of renewal, transformation and mission, centred on an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

A moment to believe. The journey has begun. Join us at eucharist28.org.

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word

I'd like to address some matters connected with the way we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word both at our Sunday Masses and during the week when Masses are celebrated.

Some of these matters are directed more to those who so generously proclaim the Scripture readings during our liturgies; others are more general in nature and impact on all members of the liturgical assembly.

When our **Readers** move forward from their seat, they should do so 'deliberately', by which is meant with purpose, neither too fast nor too slow, but with the intention of moving from their seat to the Ambo to undertake their ministry.

When they reach the foot of the sanctuary, which is slightly different in each of our churches, the Reader stops and bows to the Altar – not to the Tabernacle (see *GIRM*, n.274). This is especially the case at St Helen's and St Patrick's, since the Blessed Sacrament is not reserved in those churches and the Tabernacle is empty.

When they have reached the Ambo, Readers stand ready to proclaim their assigned Scripture reading. It may be necessary to place your hands on the Ambo in order to move the book or support yourself, but please do not 'lean' on the Ambo; it should only be your hands that are placed on the Ambo.

When proclaiming the assigned Scripture reading, the first words should be "A reading from...". Please do not announce "First Reading" or "Second Reading", etc. as these are simply headings and do not form part of the proclamation of Scripture.

Along similar lines, please do not say something along the lines of "The first reading is from..." or "The second reading is from..." as there is no need to distinguish which reading is being proclaimed. Please simply start with the words that you find in the printed source.

Please be aware that the microphone at the Ambo does not negate the need to clearly articulate the words you are proclaiming. If you mumble, all we will hear is amplified mumbling. There is no need to shout, but speaking clearly and distinctly will permit the microphone to do its job.

The proclamation of Scripture readings during the liturgy also requires a different, slightly slower pace, than used if you were reading aloud to yourself. Again this enables the words of Scripture to be clearly heard and understood by the rest of the assembly.

At the end of each reading the reader should use the conclusion "The word of the Lord" regardless of what might be printed in the book or folder before

them. This change took effect in 2010, and will be featured in the new Lectionary, which is currently in production, but which will not be available for a few more years. Until then please endeavour to use "The word of the Lord".

There needs to be a recognisable gap for prayerful silence between each element that makes up the Liturgy of the Word. For the sake of clarity, these elements are the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading, the Gospel Acclamation, and the Gospel Reading, Homily, Creed, and the Universal Prayer.

In some cases this is achieved easily because of a change of Reader, but if that is not the case, Readers should insert a clear gap. It may only be three or four seconds long, but it needs to be there. Please be attentive to ensuring these times of silence are part of the Liturgy of the Word.

Readers should return to their seat in the same way that they came forward, stopping at the foot of the sanctuary to once again bow to the Altar. When this happens will depend on local practice, but at a minimum, there is no need for a reader to be in place to lead the Gospel Acclamation (see below).

At the end of the Second Reading on Sundays, or after the Responsorial Psalm on weekdays, the Reader can return to their seat.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is meant to be sung (since the Psalms were written that way). That is not always possible in our communities, and, except at St Mary's, the Psalm is entirely spoken. This is also true at our weekday Masses.

When the Responsorial Psalm is spoken in its entirety, the Reader should not join in the refrain after each verse as this can cause confusion about when it is time for the refrain to be said by the rest of the assembly. Please assist the assembly by not joining in the response.

At the beginning of the Responsorial Psalm, there is no need to say something like "Response..." or "The Response is...". Please simply announce the text of the response, allow the assembly to repeat it, and then move on to the first verse.

The **Gospel Acclamation** again is meant to be sung, and I'd like to start doing so at each of our Sunday Masses. At St Mary's, this is generally begun by our musician; at St Patrick's and St Helen's, I will intone the Gospel Acclamation at the appropriate point.

On Sundays, after the sung introduction, the assembly can speak the verse (which is in the bulletin) and then sing the acclamation again. On weekdays, if the Acclamation is not being sung, it will be omitted in its entirety (see *GIRM*, n.63).

The other thing to be aware of at the time of the Gospel Acclamation is that we stand when we sing it, we don't stand to sing it.

This means that at the end of the Second Reading, or the Psalm if there is no Second Reading, we remain seated until it is time for the Acclamation to be sung by the entire assembly. This can seem strange to start with, but is part of not rushing the Liturgy of the Word.

I would ask all our Readers (in particular) to be aware of the above, and to make it available to those who might not see it in the bulletin this weekend. It has been turned into a separate document and uploaded to the 'Resources' page on our website, and it can also be emailed to those who may wish to have a copy of it.

I am also more than happy to print a copy for anyone who may not otherwise have access to it – just let me know.

If anyone has any questions about what is required or would like some clarification, I'm more than happy to chat.

Fr Andrew

National Mass Attendance Count Is Coming

The 2026 National Count of Attendance (Mass Count) will take place over the first four weekends of May.

The method used for the count enables reporting of actual numbers attending on any particular weekend, at each Mass, and the calculation of the total number likely to be in attendance on a typical weekend.

Further information will be forthcoming to assist us to complete this statistical undertaking, and I will be seeking volunteers at each church to undertake the count.

Parish Pilgrimage to Ireland

The Parish pilgrimage to Ireland will depart Sydney on Monday 21 September and returns into Sydney on Friday 9 October, although individuals may wish to extend their time in Ireland and surrounds as part of their plans.

The itinerary document, which can be found on the 'Resources' page of the parish website, contains the details of the places the pilgrimage will visit. The document also contains a link to the company, Harvest Journeys, that has made the arrangements if you would like to make a booking, seek further information, or discuss options.

If you're interested in participating in the journey, please make your booking and pay your deposit (\$800) as soon as you can.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Acts 2:42-47
Second: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Celebrating Initiation at Clarence Town

As we celebrate a significant milestone for her today, we warmly welcome Sereena Catteau to our 8am Mass, along with her family and friends.

Sereena will be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, be Confirmed, and join us at the Eucharistic Table for the first time.

Congratulations Sereena, and welcome!

Alleluia!!

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

St Francis of Assis Parish holds 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 parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding all who interact with the parish through our activities, ministries and services, especially children and adults at risk.

St Francis of Assis Parish acknowledges the people of the Worrimi 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.

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

Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

Monday 13 April

Tuesday 14 April

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 15 April

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 16 April

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 17 April

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 18 April

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 19 April

Third Sunday of Easter

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea in Dungog will take place NEXT Sunday (19 April) in the Parish Hall after the 9.30am Mass.

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

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In April: Bede Gehrig, Ruth Jones, Lenore McDermott, Paula Murphy, Robert Holdom, Dorothy Bowtell, Rex Garland, Bruno Rocco, Herbert John Preece, Allie Allen, Peter Allen, Tom O'Driscoll, Paddy Kilpinen, Bill Tyne, Neil Faber, Lyn Barry, Michael Flanagan, Paul Cooper.

Those Who Are Sick and Unwell: Warren Wade, Kevin Ward, Keith Edwards, Susan Barlow, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Eileen Chalenor, Kay Hackney, Graham McCarthy, Lyn Heaney, Paul Hardy, Joy Cavanough, Monique Jones, Joshua Kealy, John Newton.

Papal Prayer Intention for April: "Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer."

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