



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

3 MAY 2026

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 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 dgatholic.

A Reflection...

In place of my usual column this week, I thought the following reflection from Fr Michael Tate might be of some interest to you...
Fr Andrew

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then.

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about

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 situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can share in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Palliative Care Remembrance Church Service

The annual Dungog Palliative Care Remembrance Church Service will take place on Sunday 17 May in the Uniting Church, Dowling Street, Dungog, and will commence at 6pm.

All welcome.

Diocesan Cursillo 3-Day Course

Do you wonder how to be more fully alive? If so, you may like to consider attending our Cursillo 3-day course.

Cursillo is a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values, and will be asking each participant "How can I BE Christian in the environments of my many everdays?"

The 2026 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Cursillo 3 days will be held from 11-14 June at the Cataline Conference Centre, Rathmines, with the theme "Joy of the Lord is my strength".

To learn more about Cursillo and the 3-day course, visit t.ly/tTgb0.

ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch

Witness how the Holy Spirit is moving in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as we launch ALIVE – a dynamic and exciting event that will showcase a new diocesan identity for young people that seeks to draw them into a personal relationship with Christ they feel confident to share with others.

Music will be led by a nationally acclaimed worship team and a number of exciting plans will be announced alongside some good news stories of where ALIVE is already taking shape in parishes and schools.

To secure your free seat, visit t.ly/hYdx1

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.

Ordination of a Deacon

Bishop Michael will ordain Christopher Voigt to the Diaconate on Saturday, 23 May in Sacred Heart Cathedral, with the Mass beginning at 10am.

Christopher will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon and will continue to work in and around the Maitland Parishes where he lives with his family.

Such occasions are always significant for the life of our diocesan community, and all parishioners from across the Diocese are warmly invited and most welcome to be present to witness and celebrate the occasion.

Diocesan 'Come and See' Retreat Day

The Diocese is holding a vocations retreat day on Saturday 16 May at the Hunter Wetlands Centre in Shortland, from 9am to 3.30pm.

Explore God's call on your life through Scripture, gain practical discernment tools from a nationally recognised presenter, pray and reflect in a peaceful natural setting, and connect with speakers from a range of vocational backgrounds.

More details can be found on the flyer on the church bulletin boards. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this retreat, please RSVP to mn.short.tn/comeandseeday.

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.

National Mass Attendance Count Is Here

The 2026 National Count of Attendance (Mass Count) will take place over the first four weekends of May. This information is important to helping to accurately plan for the future, at national, diocesan, and parish levels.

The count for the first two weeks is a simple count of total attendance.

Your assistance in undertaking the count over the four weeks is appreciated, and there may be a need to insert a small delay into the Masses to enable accurate reporting.

The Concluding Rites – Part 7

Having finished in Part 6 our look at the Greeting and Blessing that is the second element of the Concluding Rites, we move our attention to the third element.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* lists this third element as:

the Dismissal of the people by the Deacon or the [Presider], so that each may go back to doing good works, praising and blessing God; (n.90)

Before we look at the texts used for the Dismissal, however, it is interesting to note the rest of this phrase.

We are not dismissed to nothing, nor should the dismissal be seen as an ending. We are dismissed to go back to doing good works. Not to start doing good works; to go back to doing good works.

Such a seemingly inconsequential phrase has on the contrary very significant meaning for those who have gathered to praise and bless God while celebrating Mass.

The implication is that we have been called from doing good works, to be strengthened by Word and Sacrament, to be go back to doing good works. The doing of good works does not flow from our attending at Mass or other liturgical forms, but rather from something much more fundamental: from our Baptism.

It is almost as if the gathering of the assembly is a temporary hiatus, an opportunity to gather to ensure that we are encouraged and strengthened to do what we should be doing in the first place. And I would suggest that is entirely accurate.

It further suggests that attending the Church's liturgy is not the sum total of our Christian lives.

And again, I would suggest that while the Second Vatican Council referred to liturgical participation as "the source and summit" of the Christian life, the Council also suggested that liturgical participation did not exhaust the entire activity of the Church (see the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, nn.9,10).

This is the context of the Dismissal of the people who have gathered to praise and worship God. It is to bring all that we have been doing to that action, so that we can be prepared to go back to undertaking that action.

The *Order of Mass (OM)* provides the words by which the Deacon (or Presider if there is no Deacon) dismisses the people back to their baptismal undertaking. There are four options to be found at OM n.144, and no provision for the use of "these or similar words".

This lack of permission for variations is not something new in the current translation of the *Roman Missal*; it was there in the previous editions, but was sometimes honoured more in the breach.

The four variations in the current OM, listed in the order found in the OM, are:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Go in peace.

Each of these texts send people from the liturgical gathering, each in its own way. The use of 'Go' in each must really be seen as a command (the original Latin makes this clear) for everyone who has gathered to get back to what they were doing before that gathered. And that is the very point of the dismissal.

Whichever text is used by the Deacon or Presider, the response of the gathered assembly is a very simple "Thanks be to God", a reminder I believe of why we were gathered in the first place, i.e., to praise God and to be strengthened for the mission that is ours in Baptism.

And that is the third of the four elements that make up the Concluding Rites. The last one can wait for Part 8.

To be continued...



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.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Acts 6:1-7
Second: 1 Peter 2:4-9
Gospel: John 14:1-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea in Clarence Town will take place TODAY (3 May) under the pergola after the 8am Mass. Please join us for good company, good food, and good conversation.

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...)

Fifth Week of Easter, Year A

Monday 4 May

Tuesday 5 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 6 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 7 May

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 8 May

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 9 May

Sunday 10 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died: Margaret Clune.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In May: Ray Johnson, Danny Robertson, Eileen Moylan, Nita Ford, Mary Kealy, Ted McFadyen, Evelyn Martin, Clarke Deards, Don Trow, Margaret Smith, Alvin Robertson, Carmel Hudson, Steve Bartlett, Fr Peter Williams, Ian Tope, Dulcie Hepworth, Jenny Szymec, Catherine Atkins, Irene Byron, Bill & Hannah Byron, Helen Cooper, Rodney Ryan, Gordon Ryan, Joyce Little, Jan Graboski, Betty Vell, Cecilia Catherine Wilson, Pam Williams, Maisie Trow, Bruce Clark.

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, Paul Hardy, Joy Cavanough, Monique Jones, John Newton, Kristine Desai.

Papal Prayer Intention for May: "Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food."

Electronic Banking Details

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