



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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

17 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.

Welcome Fr Dennis

A warm welcome to Fr Dennis Rochford msc, who is with us for Masses this weekend while Fr Andrew is on leave.

Fr Dennis has served in a number of roles and places during his ministry, both in Australia and overseas. He is a well-respected theologian who has taught in a number of theological faculties across Australia and around the globe.

Fr Dennis is well-known for his engaging and thought-provoking homilies, and we look forward to his visiting St Francis of Assisi Parish a few times across the year.

Please make Fr Dennis welcome!

Fr Andrew writes:

I first got to know Fr Dennis well when I was stationed in Forster Tuncurry Parish (in what seems like another lifetime!) where he was living 'in retirement'.

I always enjoyed his company and the conversations over meals and a good wine, and am delighted he was available to cover my absences this year.

Welcome Fr Dennis – and thank you!

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

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

2026 Clergy Conference

The clergy of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will gather with Bishop Michael for their annual Clergy Conference on Wednesday and Thursday of this coming week.

This gathering is an opportunity for clergy to learn and be briefed on important aspects of diocesan and parish life, as well as an opportunity for coming together for mutual support and conversation.

Please remember the gathering in your prayers.

2026 Magdalene Award – Nominations Open

Celebrate the women who have and continue to shape our Church.

Inspired by Mary Magdalene – courageous disciple and first witness to the Risen Christ – the Award honours a woman in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle whose life reflects Gospel values through leadership, service, and faith.

For more information, and to obtain a nomination pack, please visit t.ly/gxnr2 or email Kate at mission@mn.catholic.org.au.

Nominations close Monday 8 June 2026.



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.

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.

All parishioners from across the Diocese are warmly invited and most welcome to be present to witness and celebrate the occasion.

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.

The 2026 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Cursillo course 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.

The launch will take place on Sunday 24 May at 2pm at The Factory, Park Avenue, Adamstown.

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/2Esrx

Alleluia!!

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.

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.

The 2026 Census Coming Soon!

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) counts every person and household in Australia through the Census. Information from the Census helps governments, businesses and community groups plan for schools, health care, transport and infrastructure.

The ABS cannot complete the Census without a temporary field workforce. These are the people who collect the data that helps the ABS understand more about Australia and how it is changing.

The ABS is now hiring Community Field Officers to assist in undertaking the 2026 Census.

Do you have experience working with people who have a range of different needs? Community Field Officer jobs are now available in locations all over Australia.

As a Community Field Officer, you'll support people from all cultures and communities to participate in the Census. You'll help people in-person, providing information about the Census. This may include running Census Pop-up Hubs, information sessions or Fill-in-Form sessions.

Census data helps governments, not-for-profits and businesses make important decisions that directly impact local communities. It is used to help plan local services for individuals, families, and communities. It is vital that everyone in Australia participates in the Census.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is looking for people with lived experience and/or experience supporting diverse population groups such as people living with disability, people experiencing homelessness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people who speak a language other than English.

Community Field Officer jobs are temporary with flexible hours across weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Get your application in by 1 June 2026 to be considered in the first round of recruitment in your local area.

Join the Census team and help collect the data that informs local services for your community. To apply and see all Census job opportunities, visit census.abs.gov.au/jobs.

SRE Teacher at Dungog High School

There is an opening for a paid SRE Teacher to work in Dungog High School for a half day per week.

More information about the role – and application – can be made by clicking on t.ly/Qaogj.

The Concluding Rites – Part 9

It is to be hoped that the brief exploration of the Concluding Rites in this series brings at least one thing to mind when we celebrate this part of the Mass (or another liturgy): it is meant to be short and straightforward.

The whole purpose of the Concluding Rites is to prepare and propel the Assembly to go back out into the world to continuing doing good works.

The Concluding Rites is not the place to add anything additional either, as the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* reminds us. There are four very simple elements to the Concluding Rites, and nothing else!

So see the Concluding Rites for what they are – the beginning of the week's ministry and mission, to be undertaken until we gather once more to be nourished in Word and Sacrament for that very purpose.

Don't add things to the Concluding Rites that either do not belong there, or which might obscure the purpose of this last, very short part of the liturgy. Keep it simple, keep it short, and let the power of being sent out resonate with and in you across the whole week ahead

Fine!

Sr Jan Tranter Book Launch

Sr Jan Tranter is well known throughout Australian Catholic, History, and Scientific circles for her scholarly writings on Fr Julian Tenison Woods who has played such a pivotal role in the story of the Australian Josephite Sisters and the wider story of Australia.

Jan was recently invited to publish her many articles in a book entitled *Julian Tenison Woods, the Human Story: Priest, Founder, Friend*.

The Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar are delighted to announce the book will be launched by Bishop Michael Kennedy in the Diocesan Resource Centre on Sunday 31 May at 2pm.

All are welcome. RSVP: office@ssjl.org.au or phone 4948 4063.

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 1:1-11
Second: Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Responsorial Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

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

Seventh Week of Easter, Year A

NB: There are no weekday Masses this week while Fr Andrew is on leave.

Monday 18 May

Tuesday 19 May

Wednesday 20 May

Thursday 21 May

Friday 22 May

Saturday 23 May

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 24 May

Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Palliative Care Remembrance Church Service

The annual Dungog Palliative Care Remembrance Church Service will take place on Sunday 17 May in the Anglican Church, Dowling Street, Dungog, and will commence at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea in Dungog will take place TODAY (17 May) in the Parish Hall after the 9.30am Mass. Please join us for good company, good food, and good conversation.

National Mass Attendance Count Continues

The 2026 National Mass Count continues this week, with a focus not only the total number but also a count by gender.

Next week (the final week), in addition to the total number present, we will count by age groups as well.

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died: Theresa Cowley.

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, Bill Montegue.

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."

Safeguarding in our Parish 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.

Electronic Banking Details

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