



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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

24 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 *dgcatholic*.

A Pastoral Note...

The Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday brings this year's celebration of Easter, and the Easter Season, to a close.

Yet I think it is vitally important to remember that, although the Easter Season has closed and we will move back into 'Ordinary Time', the gifting of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate at Pentecost is the fulfilment of the promise of Jesus to be with us always.

Listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and allowing the Holy Spirit to remind us of all that Jesus said and did, is the means by which we as Church seek to live out the mission for which we exist: to continue to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world!

Over the course of the process of the Synod on Synodality, the role of the Holy Spirit in assisting the Church to grasp the teaching and example that Jesus puts before us has been highlighted. It has allowed us to grapple with new circumstances, new conditions in the world, and to respond in ways that are entirely in keeping with Jesus.

For many people this has been a challenge. For

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

those more accustomed to an earthlier approach that focuses on who might 'have the numbers' to have things go their way against a differing position, the call to listen to the Holy Spirit made manifest in another person is an invitation to embrace something new – and potentially frightening.

And yet this is the way we are called to be Church in the here and now, in this time and place. If we have learned nothing else from the long process attached to the Synod on Synodality, it is this: decision making in the life of the Church, from the highest echelons to the lowest, is now about listening to the Holy Spirit in a prayerful manner so that at the end of the day we can say "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28).

A reminder that our Parish Assembly will take place in July this year. More details about the Assembly, and some of the issues to be discussed, will start appearing in the bulletin over the coming weeks. In preparation for this event, I can but ask you to pray for the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Dungog Combined Churches Service

The next Combined Churches Service in Dungog will take place next weekend, Sunday 31 May, in at the Dungog Anglican Church, beginning at 6.30pm.

The service will be followed by a light supper.

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.

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.

Alleluia!!

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.

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Pentecost

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

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.

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.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Come, Holy Spirit

'Come, Holy Spirit', or its Latin, Vene Sancte Spiritus, has become the basis of countless prayers and hymns over many hundreds of years. To this day, it remains a powerful invocation that can be used in prayer or meditation. Three simple words convey a wealth of meaning. The invitation for the Spirit to 'Come' indicates recognition of the need for the Spirit's intervention and openness to accept the guidance that the Spirit brings. It is a powerful, simple prayer that can be used at the outset of any significant undertaking or whenever you find yourself in need of inspiration.

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 cultural heritage and beliefs, pay our respects to their Elders – past, present, and emerging – and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Acts 2:1-11
Second: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Pentecost Sequence

NB: Please remain seated to pray the Sequence.

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

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

Eighth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 25 May
Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Tuesday 26 May
Memorial of St Philip Neri
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 27 May
NO MASS Fr Andrew presenting at the Clergy
Conference in Wollongong

Thursday 28 May
NO MASS Fr Andrew presenting at the Clergy
Conference in Wollongong

Friday 29 May
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 30 May
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 31 May
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

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."

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