



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.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

31 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*)

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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 *dgatholic*.

A Pastoral Note...

I sometimes think that living in contemporary society can become so caught up in the "busyness" of ordinary life that we do not seem to have much by way of opportunity to think about the 'bigger picture'.

Certainly we can plan for things that are still way off, but this, more often than not, still seems to be about practical things.

What I'm thinking of is more along the lines of the 'big' questions of life. Questions like: Why is this important? Is this really important? What does all of this mean? Does this give me joy, meaning, and life?

There is a real risk, I think, that we can get so caught up in practicalities, as necessary as they are, that we can lose sight of the 'big picture'. And it appears to me that it's only we 'stop' that we have the real opportunity to turn our minds and hearts to some of the really 'big' issues.

I mention this because that was an opportunity that came to me during my recent leave, a chance to simply stop and give some attention to more than just the practicalities of the here and now in which it is so easy to get caught up.

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
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There's no need to panic, though. There were no gigantic decisions made recently. It is simply an observation on how easy it is to get caught up in the "busyness" of the everyday.

As Christians, however, I wonder if we shouldn't be attempting to create opportunities to step away from the everyday and to turn our attention, our minds, our hearts, our prayer, towards some of the bigger questions we might ordinarily be hampered from contemplating.

I recognise that creating such opportunities might be difficult, but it might also be a counter-cultural witness to others in our society if we were to carve out times when we turn off the television, put our phones down, avoid distraction, and simply allow our focus to move to other things apart from the ordinary and every day.

Rather than taking the opportunity only when we think we have the space to do so, perhaps, just perhaps, making the space to contemplate the 'big picture' might make us better Christians and better people.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Dungog Combined Churches Service

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

The service will be followed by a light supper.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Trinity

At no point in the New Testament is the term Trinity used. That understanding of the nature of God came much later. However, there are a number of scriptural references that led to this theological understanding. The Annunciation, the baptism of Jesus and the great commissioning of the disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all examples of the three persons of God being recognised or active in the gospels. Today's second reading shows St Paul using the three experiences of God as a blessing of the people of Corinth.

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.



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.

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.

SRE Gathering with Bishop Michael

A special gathering for all SRE Teachers – and those considering joining this ministry – will take place at St Stephen's Church, Tea Gardens on Friday 17 July from 9.30am to 1pm.

This is an opportunity to spend a day with Bishop Michael and fellow volunteers to celebrate, reflect, and grow in the shared mission of SRE.

Come listen, learn, and be inspired by the experience and dedication of others who serve with faith and love.

To register, visit t.ly/NKRCO

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.

Eucharist28 Update – Hearts Set Ablaze!

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation.

At the very first Pentecost, the apostles were transformed as the fire of the Holy Spirit was poured out for them, empowering them to go out to evangelise the world.

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God." – Acts of the Apostles 2:46-47

The early Church was *Eucharistic*. They gathered together in community and shared in the breaking of the bread. It was through believing in and sharing in Christ's body and blood that the Holy Spirit set their hearts ablaze, strengthening them to spread the Good News without fear.

As we move forward from our celebration of Pentecost last week, our parishes and communities can imitate the early Church by devoting ourselves to the Eucharist and allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us – in our ministries, our youth groups, and our personal prayer.

This national journey to Eucharist28 is an invitation for all of us to be set on fire by the Holy Spirit and share in the breaking of the bread. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes.

For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: eucharist28.org

Mass Count Outcome

Now that the Mass Count has concluded, the results for Dungog Gresford Parish can be found below:

Place	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Average
St Mary's	34	30	30	30	31
St Patrick's	29	27	21	20	24.25
St Helen's	12	16	14	8	12.5
Total	75	73	65	58	67.75

In the last count, in 2024, the average attendance was 13 at St Helen's, 24.75 at St Patrick's, 39.5 at St Mary's, for a total average of 77.25.

Fr Andrew

NB: The St Helen's figures include the monthly Mass at Sacred Heart, Summer Hill.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9
Second: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel: John 3:16-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Resp: Glory and praise for ever!

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. (R.)
Blest your glorious holy name. (R.)
2. You are blest in the temple of your glory. (R.)
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. (R.)
3. You are blest who gaze into the depths. (R.)
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

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

Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 1 June

Memorial of St Justin

Tuesday 2 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 3 June

Memorial of St Charles Lwanga and companions

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 4 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 5 June

Memorial of St Boniface

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 6 June

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 7 June

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Next Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will take place after the 8am Mass on Sunday 7 June under the pergola.

Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation. All welcome!

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 Worimi 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.

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.

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