



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 BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST** **7 JUNE 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  
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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](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)).

**Social Media** Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads – all with the username *dgatholic*.

### A Pastoral Note...

Life in the Commonwealth of Australia for a faithful Christian can be a challenge at times.

The faithful Christian can often encounter policies and practices which they believe to be alien to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that should inform the way we live our lives and interact with others.

The faithful Christian can encounter people who demand that faith and its expression should be relegated to the private domain and has no place in public conversation and debate.

The faithful Christian can very occasionally be subjected to ridicule and opprobrium for holding to beliefs and values that others in our society deem to be 'offensive' or 'discriminatory' or 'old fashioned'.

Such is the lot of Christians in a post-modern world.

Such challenges shouldn't surprise us, however. The attempt to faithfully live the life of the Christian disciple has always been a challenge, and it was never promised to be an easy task. Attempting to live the Christian life will always be hard work.

In the face of such challenges, however, some Christians will respond with a simple – or simplistic –

### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School  
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Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)  
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demand that Christian values should not only be the prevailing values of society, but should be enshrined in public policy and laws.

But such an approach falls into the same trap that they are fighting against.

Christians no longer live in what was often described as "Christendom"; now we live in a world where the Gospel is sometimes seen as just one more idea among many, all of which have equal value.

In contemporary society, the task of Christians is not simply to demand adherence to the beliefs and values found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but rather to engage in the task of convincing people of the worth of those same beliefs and values.

That task is called "evangelisation", and it is a task that every Christian is called to take up.

Rather than lament the dearth of Christian beliefs and values in the public domain, the faithful Christian is called to purposefully and unashamedly speak about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and convince other people of its value.

Have a blessed week...

*Fr Andrew*

### **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](https://t.ly/gxnr2) or email Kate at [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au).

Nominations close Monday 8 June 2026.

### **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](https://t.ly/NKRCO)



### **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.

# **SCRIPTURAL**

## **CONTEXT**

### **Eucharist in Scripture**

*The gospel of John does not include any account of Jesus taking bread and wine and urging the disciples to 'do this in memory of me'. The three synoptic gospels, however, all feature these actions and words, as does Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which predates all of the gospels. Rather than using these words of institution, the gospel of John includes an entire chapter much earlier in the gospel in which Jesus theologises about the image of himself as the Bread of Life. It is this discourse, more than the Last Supper accounts, that provides much of the theological understanding of Eucharist.*

### **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/Qqogj](https://t.ly/Qqogj).

### **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](https://t.ly/tTgb0).

### **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](https://t.ly/1X-lb). Please pass this information to anyone who may be interested.

Please note that beginning in 2026, the celebration of Confirmation will take every second year.

For any enquiries, please contact Fr Andrew.

## Homily by Richard Leonard

Some years ago, Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru. There he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped forward to the microphone. Their names were Irene and Viktor Charo. As the huge crowd went quiet, they begin to speak to the Pope.

'Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet we believe, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life. And we hunger for bread.' Before a hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish. 'You tell me you hunger for bread.' 'Yes, yes', the millions yelled in reply. 'You tell me you hunger for God', said the Pope and again the crowd swelled with an emphatic 'Yes! Yes!' 'I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied.'

The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there – many of them devout Catholics – and said very starkly, 'I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back. Give it back – it belongs to the poor.'

As extraordinary as the Pope's words were that day, Jesus' words about the Eucharist in today's Gospel are even more so. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel many people were so horrified by the claims Jesus makes for the reality of his presence in the Eucharist, they stopped following him. John clearly links Jesus giving himself for the sake of God's kingdom and our redemption, with the communion we share with Him in every Mass.

When we receive the Risen Christ in communion it's not a symbol of his presence or a sign of his life to which we say 'Amen'. It is Christ who hosts us, who gives us himself so that we might be transformed into His image and likeness. In modern language Christ says to us at every Mass, 'Here I am, broken and poured out in love for you. Take me. I'm here for you.'

The danger with all gifts, and most especially with this gift, is that we can think it's just for us, an intimate moment between each of us and Christ. It is that, but it's also much more. St Augustine in a sermon on the Eucharist on 9th August 413 wrote that the Mass was about three things: goodness, unity and charity. Augustine taught that if we were not better people, working for unity and loving each other away from the Eucharist, it fails to achieve its purpose.

Hence, like the Pope in Peru, many people have linked the reception of the Bread of Life here with the giving of bread which sustains life away from here. On average in our world 26,000 die every day

of starvation. John F Kennedy observed in 1961, 'The only thing standing between us and the elimination of hunger is our desire to see it.' We could feed all the world's poor. We choose not to.

In a talk on the Eucharist, the then Jesuit General, Fr Pedro Arrupe said, 'while there is hunger in the world then our Eucharists are incomplete'. By this he didn't mean that when we gather for Mass anything is wrong. Rather he meant that when we gather around this holy table for this sacred meal while people still starve in the world, then something vital is lacking. There's an emptiness.

Yet it's an emptiness that invites us in. The God who comes to us at every Eucharist as real food is the same God that asks, 'When I was hungry, did you feed me?' This question says that just as God feeds us, so we too should and can feed each other.

May this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ give us the strength of our convictions. May the real food and drink we provide away from this sacred table prove to the world the power of the Eucharist to change us into a people that are good, unifying and loving. And may we not just share with the poor from our excesses, but give them back the food that is rightly theirs.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.



## Today's Liturgy

### Scripture Readings:

First: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16  
Second: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
Gospel: John 6:51-58

### Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

### Memorial Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

## Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Next Friday, the liturgical calendar observes the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In our Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Dungog Gresford, however, the Solemnity has an additional meaning because of our church at Summer Hill, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We would usually celebrate the title feast on the day itself. This year, since the monthly Mass at Summer Hill will take place the following Sunday, a decision has been taken to transfer the celebration of this feast of title from Friday 12 June to previously scheduled Mass on Sunday 14 June at 11.30am.

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.

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

Tenth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 8 June

Tuesday 9 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 10 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 11 June

Memorial of St Barnabas

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 12 June

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 13 June

Sunday 14 June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

## Morning Tea at Clarence Town

Morning tea at Clarence Town will take place after the 8am Mass TODAY under the pergola. All welcome!

## In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

### Those Who Have Died:

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In June:** Nora Enright, Tom Richardson, Mary Clayden, Rudd Convery, Laura Black, Daphne Oades, Bede Johnson, Bruce Ralstone, Tom Stone, Noel Smith, Meryl Ryan, Edward Kealy, William Hudson, Sydney & Zita Osmond, Helen Collins, Gisela Kirston, Joan Oliver, Fr Brian Bailey, Kenny Barry, Roy Preece, Ken Cooper, Cheryl Maytom, Margaret Mary Dooley, Christine Elliott, John Taylor.

**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 June:** "Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth."

## Electronic Banking Details

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