



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.

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

14 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*)

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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...

It should not surprise the reader of this column that I have a few pet liturgical peeves, things almost always guaranteed to increase my blood pressure!

One of them was something I experienced regularly when I was at our Cathedral church in connection with weddings in particular. I have experienced it again recently when I attended the celebration of Confirmation in my role as Master of Ceremonies.

It might seem illogical, but it is increasingly common for people to come to a belief that the advertised time for a liturgy is the time to 'arrive' rather than the 'start' time.

When a wedding, funeral or other liturgy has a time listed, that's the time the liturgy commences, the moment when the first strain of music is heard, or the moment a procession begins. It is not the time for those attending said occasion to arrive at the door of the church or other building.

Now things happen I grant you that sometimes means we run late. One can never account for traffic, flat tyres, accidents of various descriptions, etc., which might mean that despite our best effort and intention, we run late for things. I've done it,

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and it will probably happen again.

I don't like it, however, and when I'm running late for something, regardless of whether I've had any control over it or not, the first thing I do is apologise.

Which means my pet peeve isn't about running late *per se* but about an apparent disregard shown by some people to a social convention that says any time that is advertised in connection with an event is the start time not their arrival time.

The social convention, however, has something more profound behind it: a respect for occasion and other people that at times seems lacking in our contemporary society.

As Christians, we are called to love one another, and love, in that Christian context, means that I am not at the centre of everything, and may have to 'sacrifice' something for the sake of the other.

Being attentive to our arrival time and its relationship with the starting time of an occasion, be it liturgical or otherwise, is a very practical means of showing that love for others.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Parish Pilgrimage to Ireland Is On!!

The planned Pilgrimage to Ireland is definitely on!

During the week we've had confirmation that we have the numbers to head off on pilgrimage to Ireland commencing on 21 September and back to Australia on 9 October.

The confirmation also means that there are now only a limited number of places left if you were still considering joining the journey!

The itinerary document can be found via the 'Resources' tab of our parish website, and can also be found on the website of Harvest Journeys by going to www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/pv2608/ which also links to the booking details.

Act now if you would like to secure one of the last remaining spaces.

Service NSW Mobile Service Centre Returning

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre will once again be coming to Clarence Town on Tuesday 30 June 2026, between 12.30pm and 3.30pm.

The Centre will be found at 48 Grey Street as usual.

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.

Review of the 'Sick and Unwell' List

As we must do periodically, it's time for a review of the names included in the 'Sick and Unwell' list that appears in the bulletin each week.

Over the next few weeks, it would be appreciated if all those who asked for names to be included on the list could confirm whether the name should remain there. This is a request for a *positive* response, i.e., if the inclusion isn't confirmed as staying, the name will be removed.

Please confirm the inclusion by contacting the Parish Office no later than **30 June 2026**.

Young Adult Retreat 2026: To Be Human

The Young Adult Retreat returns this year, inviting young adults aged 18 to 35 to explore what it means *To Be Human* and fully alive in this life and for eternity.

This retreat offers a unique opportunity to deepen faith, build lasting relationships, and connect with other young adults from across the Diocese.

The retreat will take place from Friday 17 July until Sunday 19 July at Camp Elim, Forster, and will feature speakers from across NSW and Australia, a dynamic and engaging program, praise and worship, and the celebration of the sacraments.

To register, visit ALIVEYA26.eventbrite.com.au.

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.

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

For any enquiries, please contact Fr Andrew.



Have you thought?

The labourers are few

This passage is often used as the basis for sermons, conversations or even marketing about vocations – vocations to religious life as well as lay vocations. The image of a rich harvest with not enough labourers to reap the harvest is a powerful one. In the Western world in particular today it is very true of priestly and religious vocations. However, it is equally true of lay vocations. Too few people are prepared to 'own' their faith and live the message of the gospel in their day to day work and interactions with others. In what way are you a labourer in the harvest?

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

Homily by Richard Leonard

Damian told me that his life changed when his sister was involved in a car accident that left her with brain injuries. As tragic as this terrible event was for his sister, Damian told me that it was a defining moment for him as well because it enabled him to work out what truly matters, what he took for granted, what he hoped for and whether he could hold on to faith in the face of tragedy.

Damian said that one of the things he learnt in the experience was what not to say to people in grief and shock. He reported that the nicest people said some of the worst things to him and his family. 'It's all God's will and now you just have to accept it.' 'God only gives the biggest crosses to those who can bear it.' 'God was clearly trying to teach you all a lesson and we'll only find out in heaven what she did to deserve this.' He said he wanted to scream. Some of his family have not been back to church since the accident.

The most helpful comment, however, the one that gave Damian and his family the greatest consolation, was, 'I can only imagine what it would be like if it were my sister.' The people who made this comment weren't trying to find an answer for him in his shock and grief; they were trying to struggle with him in his pain and questioning and understand what it might be like.

This response has a name. It's called compassion and it is what today's readings are all about. The Lord claims the Israelites as his treasured possession out of compassion. Saint Paul reminds us that God sent his Son to save us from our own destructiveness because he had compassion on us in our sinfulness. And when Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion for their diseases, sufferings and lack of leadership and he did something about it.

We are called to see the crowds of our own day and be moved with compassion. Compassion asks us to imagine what it's like to be a refugee, homeless, a victim of domestic violence, HIV positive, disabled, substance addicted, a single parent or unemployed.

We may not be able to answer these people's suffering or perhaps for some reason we should not be the ones to respond to their suffering. In either event, what we should do is secondary to how we feel with them.

And often the people we find it hardest to be compassionate toward are the ones to whom we are closest. We often expect so much of our wife or husband, children, friends and parents that we allow the poor to lay a greater claim on our compassion before those we love.

We don't have to be stingy with compassion; there will always be enough to go around. By virtue of our baptism and our coming to this Mass, however, we should be well known for being very compassionate, even foolishly so.

For Jesus doesn't teach us today to solve all the world's problems, just that we have to have the right attitude toward our brothers and sisters, imagining what it's like for them and treating them in the way we would want to be treated.

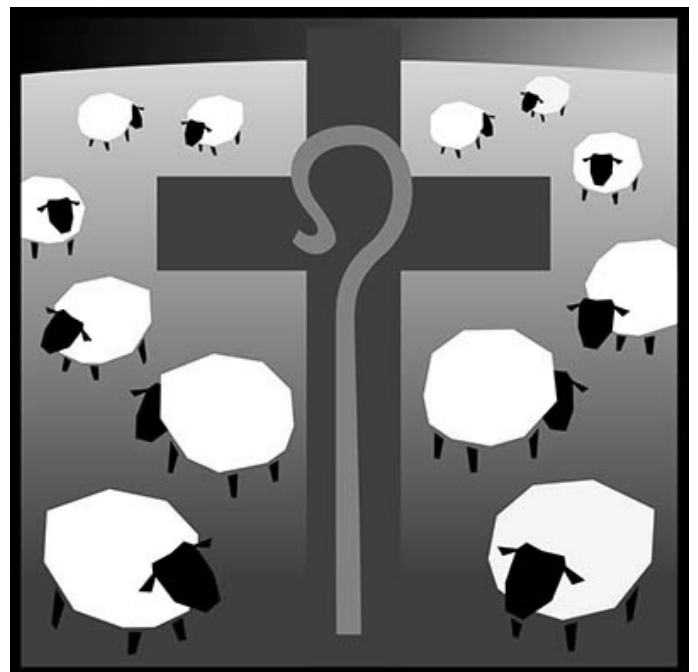
In the ministry of compassion we are all labourers sent out to harvest love in Christ's name; all of us are commissioned to confront evil and offer goodness in its place. And all of us are called, like the Apostles, to go to every lost sheep, especially the one who may be under our own roof, and offer healing and peace.

No one said following Jesus in this way was easy. Nearly every name read out in today's Gospel died a martyr for our faith. May the way we live be worthy of their example.

So this week when we catch ourselves jumping to an immediate condemnation of someone, let's stop and pray for the gift of compassion. That we might ask, 'What must life be like for you?' At that point, our understanding will be touching the Divine.

© 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: Exodus 19:2-6
Second: Romans 5:6-11
Gospel: Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

Responsorial Psalm:

We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

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

Morning Tea at Dungog

Morning tea at Dungog will take place after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (21 June) in the Parish Hall.

Please bring a plate to share, and join us for 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.

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

11th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 15 June

Tuesday 16 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog
11am Funeral Liturgy for Peter Richardson @ East Gresford

Wednesday 17 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 18 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 19 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 20 June

5.90pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 21 June

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died: Peter Richardson.

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."

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