



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.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

21 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
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.

A Pastoral Note...

During the week I was chatting with a priest friend of mine from another diocese, a man who I have known for all of my priestly life and before, and who has been of tremendous support to me in good times and in bad.

We talk regularly about things of consequence and of none, but on this occasion, I was calling to follow up on my friend's health following a recent health scare.

My friend, who is a little older than I am, shocked me during the conversation by telling me that he was thinking it was time to consider retirement from full-time active ministry, because of both his age and his declining health. Trying to be supportive, I said to him that he was far too young to be contemplating retirement. And what he said in response stunned me into silence.

"Andrew", he said, "we should never be so proud as to think we are either indispensable or always have to do the things we used to do".

Now my friend has always been a man of great insight and wisdom, but his response this time was of particular significance.

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)
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When you stop and think about it, thinking we are indispensable to some activity could quite easily tend towards pride, which is an excessive belief in our own excellence or significance to the point where we elevate ourselves above others – and above God!

It is surely a dangerous belief – in any context – to think that there's no one else who can do the things we do, and that therefore we must continue to do the things we have always done.

There comes a time, no doubt different for each of us, when we have to realise that just because we have always been responsible for a particular task does not mean that no one else is capable of conducting that task. If something truly needs doing there will always be someone willing to perform it.

We need to remember that the task is not ours *per se*, that we are merely the ones doing it now. My friend has come to realise that because of his health scare. It has made me start to wonder whether I would be brave enough to put pride aside and give up things I thought only I could do.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Parish Assembly

As mentioned way back in January, our parish will hold a Parish Assembly in July to discuss and decide on a number of important issues that are facing us, and to discern our future direction and activities together.

The 2026 Parish Assembly will take place in the Dungog Parish Hall on **Saturday 25 July 2026** beginning with Mass at 9am.

Papers for the Assembly are being prepared and will start to appear on the 'Resources' page of the Parish Website, and will be finalised no later than the weekend of 4th and 5th July.

If anyone has a matter they would like added to the Agenda, please contact Fr Andrew.

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. For more information go to t.ly/Qaogj.

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

Parish Pilgrimage to Ireland Is On!!

The planned Pilgrimage to Ireland is definitely on!

We've recently had confirmation that we have the numbers to head off 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!

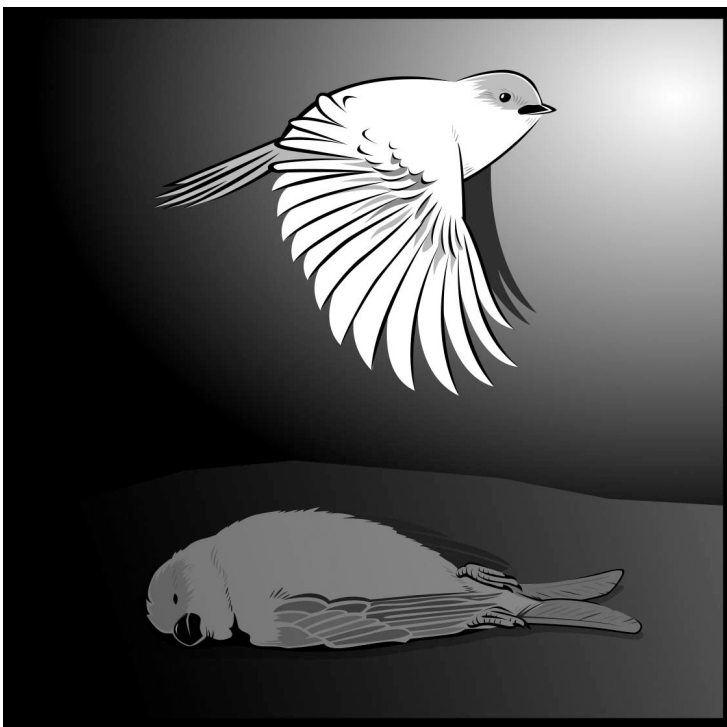
The itinerary document can be found via the 'Resources' tab of our parish website, and can also be found on the website of Harvest Journeys by going to www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/pv2608/ which also links to the booking details.

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.

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.

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 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

A few years ago there was an English film entitled, *Secrets and Lies*. It charted the story of a dysfunctional family who sat on terrible secrets and told many lies for decades.

Like many successful dramatic films, audiences flocked to see it, not only because of its compelling story, but also because it tapped into an important truth about family life as many of us live it.

When I was a boy, I was often told that 'What's said and done in the home, stays in the home.' And to a degree, this is a good and loyal principle.

There are, however, family secrets and lies that cause untold damage for generations because no one is allowed to speak about them. Sexual abuse, domestic violence, suicide, incest, drug-taking, alcoholism, theft, adoption and abortion are only some of the secrets and lies that many families sit on.

Jesus, however, tells us in today's Gospel that what you 'say in the dark, tell in the light. What you whisper in darkness, shout from the housetops.'

This doesn't mean that Christians tell everyone their personal business, but it does cut to the heart of what stunts spiritual and personal growth.

To the degree that something shameful remains buried, hidden and unhealed, then its power over us is increased. It remains the thing about which we can never speak. The bad spirit has a field day with this sort of stuff, feeding our fears and lowering our self-esteem.

In this regard some Christians make a false distinction between their spiritual and psychological lives. They hold that the exploration of one's personal history or emotional problems is self-indulgent or unimportant to how we live.

We all know people who, in the pursuit of emotional health, become obsessed by their own story, feelings, reactions and psychology. We also know others who never deal with the heavy hurts they seem to carry through the years, even though the pain of them seems to be as powerfully felt now as they were when they were inflicted upon them. Today's Gospel reminds us that there is a middle road between denying what should be acknowledged and dealt with, and being absorbed by it.

The Church, rightly, holds that the best psychological tools can bring out into the open memories and experiences that can be seen for what they are and dealt with. We just have to be sure that we don't get conned into believing that psychology and therapy is anything but a pit-stop in life, so that we can attend to the working order of our mental machinery, and, importantly, get

back on the road with everyone else, calling in later if needs be.

Long before the therapist's office Christ enabled the Church to develop the Sacrament of Penance where we admit our most destructive behaviour and hear that we are forgiven and healed.

That's why, when I am hearing a confession, I can't tell you how happy I am to hear the penitent say, 'Father I have never told anyone this before.'

At that moment I know the love of God is active in the person, drawing out what Christ wants in the light, spoken of and healed.

This Sunday Jesus invites all of us to find a person we respect and trust, and to end the tyranny of the power of secrets and lies. I promise you when you take this risk with the appropriate person, the presence of God won't be very far away either.

© 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.

gospel focus

Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Jeremiah 20:10-13
Second: Romans 5:12-15
Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

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 TODAY in the Parish Hall.

Please 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.

Electronic Banking Details

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

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

12th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 22 June

Memorial of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More

Tuesday 23 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 24 June

Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 25 June

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 26 June

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 27 June

Solemnity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

5.90pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 28 June

13th 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."

St Francis of Assis Parish acknowledges the people of the Worrimi and Wonnarua nations, on whose traditional lands we gather, live, and work. We pay our respects to their Elders – past, present, and emerging.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage and beliefs, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.