



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.

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

19 JULY 2026

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
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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...

Last December, after much back and forth, I made a choice to 'leave' Facebook.

Now that doesn't mean I don't have a Facebook account – I do – but it did mean that I deleted all the posts I had made (except the last one), and I haven't added anything new since.

The last post, the one that still remains on my Facebook feed, says this:

Please be aware that there will be no new posts on this profile.

I am only staying on Facebook in order to stay in touch with people rather than to share 'stuff'.

Staying in touch with family and friends makes sense, but ultimately it was the 'stuff' that drove me from Facebook. And by 'stuff', whether posted by others or myself, I mean the kind of nonsensical, sometimes banal, random things that seem to be the currency of social media. Certainly it is the kind of things that don't rise to the level of being of consequence at all.

I have found the time that I no longer spend in the

act of Facebook-ing better spent in things that are of consequence: reading books, articles, and other things of import, writing and thinking about things that do and should have a call on my thought processes, and, dare I say it, spending time in prayer for many and all of those things among other subjects.

This is now the 'stuff' that I engage with rather than the other that was associated with being 'social media savvy'.

Things of consequence have a rightful call on many intellects, and yet there is a tendency in our current society to lionise the less than consequential over things that have the potential to impact our lives, both as citizens and as Christians.

The challenge of social media, and it's a tendency found in other forms of media as well, is that things of consequence, things that really should occupy our attention, can be missed amidst all the noise created by 'stuff'.

I, for one, want to make sure that important things, the truly important things, aren't missed.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

Welcome Back!

A big welcome back to the students and staff of St Joseph's Primary School as they return this week for the beginning of Term 3, and the second half of the school year.

We hope that your holidays were enjoyable and restful, and you're ready for another term of learning and growing.



You're Invited

The Dungog Mother's Union once again invites you to an afternoon of musical entertainment provided by students from Dungog High School in support of the Union's Overseas and Outreach programs.

Taking place in the Christ Church Anglican Hall in Dowling Street, the afternoon will take place on Thursday 13 August, with stalls opening at 1.30pm, and the musical performances beginning at 2pm.

The cost of the afternoon, including afternoon tea, is \$10. Please RSVP to Margaret Flannery on 4992 1839 or 0427 921 839.

Refreshing the Hearts of Parish Musicians

The first of a series of Nourishment Days will take place on Saturday 8 August in Sacred Heart Cathedral between 10am and 3pm.

Geared towards instrumentalists, choir members, cantors, coordinators, and others working in parish music ministry, this is an opportunity to step away from the weekly routine, and renew your spirit.

Connect with fellow musicians from across the diocese while exploring music's vital role in Church's role and mission.

For more information and to register your interest and attendance, visit t.ly/X1RMV.

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 place every second year. For any enquiries, please contact Fr Andrew.



Have you thought? Leaven

The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn't take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman's action!

Continuing the Synodal Journey

The Synod on Synodality has been one of the most significant events in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II. For the first time, lay women and men joined bishops in the Synod Assembly with equal voting rights. Shortly afterwards, Pope Francis adopted the Final Document as part of the ordinary teaching of the Church.

What does this mean for us and for the future of our Diocese? Join us as we explore the key themes of the Final Document, the implementation phase now underway, and opportunities to become involved in local Synodal Teams. Please bring a plate to share and register your attendance.

The most easily accessible gathering for Dungog Gresford parishioners is at Raymond Terrace on Thursday 30 July beginning at 6pm. To register your attendance for this gathering, visit t.ly/6cQy.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist – Part 1

In previous series, we have covered the three other divisions of our Sunday Mass – the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, and the Concluding Rites – so it seems appropriate that we start our exploration of the one division that remains: the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is to be hoped that this current series can be completed before I leave for Ireland, but we will have to wait and see.

Fr Andrew

Together with the Liturgy of the Word, which we have covered in a previous series, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is one of the two major divisions of our celebration of Mass, the most familiar liturgical form experienced by most Catholics, and one celebrated every Sunday along with the major feasts and liturgical occasions.

Focussed on the second of the 'Two Tables', this time the Altar rather than the Ambo, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is of such significance that it can sometimes give its name to the whole celebration ("the Eucharist").

In opening its dealing with the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* has this to say:

At the Last Supper Christ instituted the Paschal Sacrifice and banquet, by which the Sacrifice of the Cross is continuously made present in the Church whenever [a] Priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord himself did and handed over to his disciples to be done in his memory.

... Hence, the Church has arranged the entire celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist in parts corresponding to precisely [the] words and actions of Christ... (n.72)

These "words and actions of Christ" can be summarised in four words – Take, Bless, Break, Give. This simple slogan neatly and concisely indicates what will take place across the duration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Firstly, the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward and prepared at the Altar ("Take"), then the great prayer of thanksgiving, the Eucharistic Prayer, is prayed over them, and us ("Bless"), before they are prepared ("Break") to be given to the gathered assembly as communion ("Give").

It is also important to remember that the Liturgy of the Eucharist is rehearsing the "words and actions of Christ". Not just words, not just actions but words and actions, which combination is fundamental to a Catholic understanding of liturgy. Indeed, this

combination, this ritual 'language', is to be found at the heart of a Catholic approach to all liturgies.

In that light, it is important as we move through our exploration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist to pay attention to both aspects, to both words and actions, so we can better approach a fuller and deeper understanding of what it is that is taking place during this part of our celebration of Mass, and its connection to the other parts that we have already explored.

Next week, with the arrival of Part 2, we will begin our exploration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist in more detail. Over coming weeks we will unpack the true significance of these "words and actions".

To be continued...

Share Your Gifts and Make An Impact

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is once again inviting parishioners to continue journeying toward strengthening the newly established Councils and Advisory Boards, as the diocese seeks to fill some vacancies following the initial Expression of Interest process last year.

This next phase is an opportunity to broaden the participation of diocesan members, and to ensure the diocesan governance structures reflect the diversity and rich gifts found in the diocesan community.

Opportunities particularly exist for those with backgrounds and experience in Governance, Finance, and Banking. New members are also sort for the Community and Wellbeing, Catholic Community Fund, and Education Boards.

The various Councils and Boards work in a synodal way marked by collaboration, respectful listening, and thoughtful conversation. They play an important role in shaping the future of our Diocese.

People from across the Diocese who feel called to submit an expression of interest are invited to go to the diocesan website. For more information and to lodge your EOI, visit t.ly/BKIAE

Free To A Good Home

Fr Andrew has recently changed his technology set-up and now has three 27" computer monitors, older but still in good working order, that are surplus to need.

If anyone is looking for a large monitor to use with a laptop, as a spare, or any other use for that matter, these monitors are available free, on a first come first served basis, to anyone who might like them.

If you are interested in these items, please speak directly to Fr Andrew for more information.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Second: Romans 8:26-27
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Parish Assembly – NEXT SATURDAY!

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

Papers for the Assembly are now available on the 'Resources' page of the Parish Website for your information.

Printed copies of the Papers are available via a request to the Parish Office for those who cannot access the website.

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 that we gather, live, and work upon the traditional lands of the Worimi and Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs, and deep spiritual attachment and connection to this land.

We 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...)

16th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 22 July

Feast of St Mary Magdalene

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 23 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 24 July

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 25 July

Feast of St James

9am Parish Assembly @ Dungog (begins with Mass)

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 26 July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Morning Tea at Dungog

Morning tea at Dungog will take place after the 9.30am Mass TODAY (19 July) in the Dungog Parish Hall. Please join us for good food, good company and good conversation. All welcome!

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In July:

Kathleen Kealy, Veronica Trappel, Peter Fortunaso, Vera Pritchard, Maisie Atkins, George Allen, Alan Hinton, Eileen Sandiland, Daphny Massey, Paul Murphy, Lex Loudon, Samuel Rizzuto, Marie Garner, Maurice Garner, Ross Young, Pat Hartcher, Joyce Clark, Helen Hall, John Diver, Joan Mitchell, Kevin Murphy, Bert Preece, Nola Dooley, Tom Banister, Lyn Kerr, Max Hall, Marion Jordan, Bruno Rocco.

Those Who Are Sick and Unwell: Warren Wade, Keith Edwards, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Graham McCarthy, Paul Hardy, Monique Jones, John Newton, Francis Byron, Bernadette Richardson.

Papal Prayer Intention for July: "Let us pray for the respect and promotion of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God."

Electronic Banking Details

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