



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.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

26 JULY 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

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)
Mr Nick Hughes (*Assistant Principal*)

P: (02) 4992 1377

E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

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...

By the time this edition of the weekly bulletin is "published", the Parish Assembly will be concluded.

Although the outcomes of the conversations at the Assembly are not known at the time of writing, I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to come together and engage in helping to discern where we are to go next.

The decisions made by the Assembly will be made available in next week's bulletin (in summary form) and on our parish website (in slightly longer format).

The importance of a Parish Assembly is not restricted to the outcomes that flow from the gathering. Most of the importance of the Assembly comes from the very fact that we have gathered together to look at what is important for our life and mission, and thus together open ourselves to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as together we look to grow together as the People of God in this place.

In other words, it doesn't really matter what is on the agenda in some sense. It matters that we commit ourselves to walking together into an unknown future, in the hope that we do so in company with Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In my perhaps twisted sense of things, this is the true meaning of being 'synodal', a recognition that we do not act as individuals of faith in a world sometimes hostile to faith, but that we are drawn together as one body of faithful disciples.

We are stronger (if not better) when we seek to be disciples of Jesus *together* rather than by *ourselves*. Being faithful to the Gospel will always be 'easier' when we can travel that road with fellow believers.

Our Parish community is still in its infancy, in terms of its formal existence at least, and there is a future that lies ahead that is yet unknown. The existence of this unknown future can be the cause of both fear and excitement.

Grappling with the unknowns together, particularly from a position of faith, permits all of us to draw strength from each other as we seek to be the presence of God in this time and this place.

It is my hope that Parish Assemblies will be a regular feature of our life together as a community of faith; the regularity of such gatherings will depend on the decisions made at this year's Assembly.

Have a blessed week...

Fr Andrew

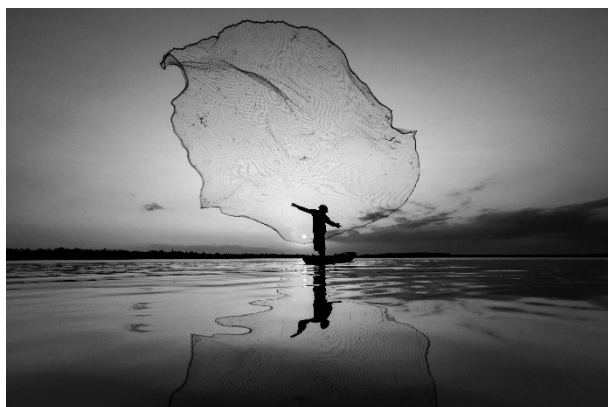
Connecting with the Parish Office

For the last several weeks the Parish Office has had some communication issues, being without any internet connection and with phone issues.

The 'good news' is that the internet connection has now been resolved, and things will return to the *status quo ante* as soon as practicable.

The Parish Office is once again able to receive telephone calls via the landline, and should the landline suddenly lose the ability to receive calls, they will be redirected to Fr Andrew's mobile.

However, we are not yet able to make calls out from the Parish Office on the landline. We will continue to work on addressing that issue with a view to rectifying it as soon as we can.



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? Interpretation

In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: "every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old." It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.

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 2

As we saw in Part 1, the first of the 'parts' of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is summed up in the word "Take", the action of receiving the gifts and bread and wine and preparing them for what comes next.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* addresses the primary thrust of this action very simple:

At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist the gifts which will become Christ's Body and Blood are brought to the altar. (n.73)

As well as being a simple explanation, it is also a very pragmatic description. The gifts – bread and wine – move from where they were until this point to the altar. How this happens we will look at in Part 3.

And that is because there is something that needs to take place before bread and wine make their way to the altar for what comes next.

As the *GIRM* notes:

First of all, the altar or Lord's table, which is the centre of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, is made ready when on it are placed the corporal, purificator, Missal and chalice (unless this last is prepared at the credence table). (n.73)

The naming of these specific items, all of which are necessary for the remainder of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, seems to assume that they are not present on the altar before this point. It assumes that the altar is, in fact, bare, and nothing has been placed on it before reaching this point of the Mass.

The only exception is the Book of the Gospels if this was processed during the Entrance Procession and placed on the altar before ultimately moving to the ambo when needed during the Liturgy of the Word.

Which means that the sometimes-seen practice of having the Missal on the altar from the beginning of Mass – and the Presider 'presiding' from the altar at the beginning of Mass – is entirely contrary to the expectations of the *GIRM*.

It also means the practice of having the corporal on the altar from the beginning of Mass, or the ornately draped chalice on the altar when Mass begins, is also entirely contrary to the expectations of the *GIRM*.

Indeed, it seems abundantly clear from a plain reading of n.73 that nothing that will be used during the Liturgy of the Eucharist should be placed on the altar until this point in the Mass, leaving the Lord's table completely free.

Arguments are sometimes heard that having these things on the altar from the beginning of Mass 'save time' or make a connection between what has gone before the Liturgy of the Eucharist and then what happens during that part of the Mass.

Such rationales are, however, spurious. The *GIRM* is quite clear in meaning.

Sometimes such practices are justified by referring to their existence during the pre-conciliar form of the Mass, but in this case, we need to understand that they may indeed belong to the pre-conciliar Mass and not the post-conciliar form that is managed by the *GIRM* and not any previous practice.

The preparation of the altar is a necessary and very practical aspect of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There is no need for it to be overly ritualised in any way, though like all actions within the liturgy it should be undertaken with an appropriate level of decorum.

And once the altar is prepared, once all the things necessary to facilitate the remainder of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, then, and only then, can we move on to the movement of bread and wine towards the altar.

But that will have to wait until next week and for Part 3.

To be continued...

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.

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: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Second: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands.

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.



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.

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...)

17th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 27 July

Tuesday 28 July

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 29 July

Memorial of Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 30 July

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 31 July

Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 1 August

Memorial of St Alphonsus of Ligouri

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 2 August

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

11.30am Baptisms @ Summer Hill

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

Morning tea at Clarence Town will take place after the 8am Mass next Sunday (2 August) under the pergola. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company and good conversation. All welcome!

Alleluia!!

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."