



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.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

23 AUGUST 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](#).

Homily by Richard Leonard

A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of a priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith.

Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching.

The priest argued that this wasn't good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the

Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, which is, of course, never irrevocable.

The entire retreat process was based on the question in today's Gospel: 'Who do you say that I am?' The disciples, reflecting on their experiences with Jesus, offer various possibilities, but it is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being.

And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church, which has nurtured us up to now, and make it our own. In doing so, when we encounter Christ, we contribute to the re-founding of the Church in our generation.

Just being part of the 'Catholic crowd' is hardly the challenge Jesus presents to the disciples in today's Gospel. We are commissioned like the disciples to bear witness to Christ's personal love in the workplace, with our friends and in our families.

It's always helpful to be reminded that we might be the only face of Catholicism, or even Christianity, that another person may encounter. The way in which we bind them up or set them free might be the measure by which they judge if the Church is the face of Christ in today's world and whether they could find a home with us.

And it all hinges on that great question which is asked of each of us today: 'Who do you say that I am?' How we answer this question reveals so much, including whether Christ is an idea we like, or the object of our passion.

© 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.

St Carlo Acutis Relics Mission

As the Diocese journeys towards Eucharist28 with Pope Leo XIV it will be hosting the first-class relics of a millennial Saint – Carlo Acutis – between 8 and 14 September.

During his young life, Carlo created the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition, which will also accompany the tour. The pilgrimage has been drawing tens of thousands from across Australia and New Zealand these past months and the Diocese is looking forward to hosting the relics.

Visit the Diocesan website (t.ly/QsvbM) to see the schedule that covers the Reception of the Relic, Upper Hunter Encounter, Northern Region Encounter and the Newcastle City Basin Encounter.

World Youth Day 2027

Bishop Michael has announced the diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV will be an enriching experience of pilgrimage for young people which has a profound impact on their relationship with Jesus, their prayer life, their lived mission, and their relationships with others.

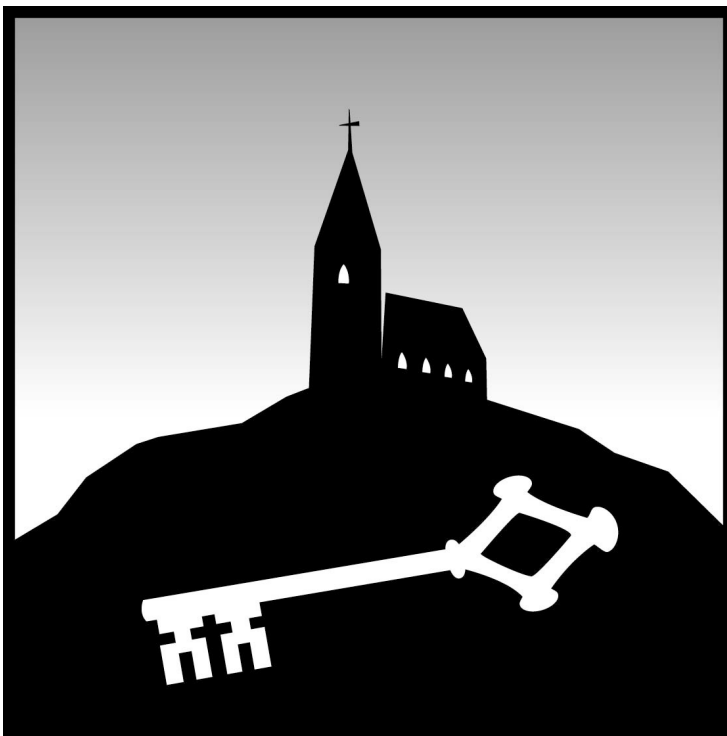
Join diocesan authorities for the Reception of the Relic of WYD Patron Saint Carlo Acutis on 8 September and a WYD Launch Event featuring early information about this opportunity.

Learn more at WYD27Launch.eventbrite.com.au.

Parish Financial Report

The Parish Financial Report for the 2025-26 Financial Year are available this weekend, before and after each of our Sunday Masses. Because of the sensitivity of this information, copies will not be left in the churches apart from our Sunday Masses.

Copies are also available to parishioners on request via email. Please direct your request via the Parish email on the front page of the bulletin.



Share Your Gifts and Make An Impact

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is once again inviting parishioners to continue journeying towards strengthening the newly established Councils and Advisory Boards, as the diocese seeks to fill some vacancies that remain to be filled.

The 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 within 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, please visit t.ly/BKIAE.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist – Part 6

At the end of Part 5, we had arrived at the point where the Presider was about to start speaking aloud the words of the Eucharistic Prayer, that prayer of the entire assembly to which the Presider gives voice.

It may be of interest to readers that there are ten Eucharistic Prayers currently authorised for use with *The Roman Missal*, with seven of these appearing in the *Missal* itself and the other three being found elsewhere.

In addition to the well-known Eucharistic Prayers I-IV, *The Roman Missal* also features two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation and one Eucharistic Prayer for use in Masses for Various Needs. This latter Eucharistic Prayer comes in four variations, which some people suggest means there are, in fact, thirteen authorised Eucharistic Prayers currently in force.

In other resources there is to be found the three Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children. The reason for them being in a separate resource is a simple one: they are not found in the Latin original, and therefore they are not found in the English translation. It is one of the peculiarities of the current translation regime applicable to the liturgies of the Latin Church.

Although the choice of which Eucharistic Prayer is used on a particular occasion is primarily at the discretion of the Presider, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) does provide some guidance later within its text (see n.365).

The Eucharistic Prayer is made up of a number of elements, each of which is significant both in itself and as part of the whole. These elements are outlined in the GIRM in n.79.

The first of these elements is *thanksgiving*, which is expressed most especially in the Preface that is part of the Eucharistic Prayer.

There are numerous Prefaces available in the *Missal*, each serving to “bring out more fully the motives for thanksgiving” and setting out in various ways “the different facets of the mystery of salvation” (GIRM, n.364).

Some of the Prefaces are applicable to only one celebration of the liturgical year, others are applicable to particular liturgical seasons, while others are more generic and can be used on a number of occasions.

Indeed, some of the Eucharistic Prayers mentioned above have their own Preface associated with them either by default or invariably. In the case of those with invariable Prefaces, this limits the times when those particular Eucharistic Prayers can be used.

The Preface begins with a dialogue between the Presider and the assembly, starting with the ubiquitous “The Lord be with you”. The words of the primary part of the Preface, which is spoken aloud by the Presider on behalf of all those who have gathered, “glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it” (GIRM, n.79a).

Towards the end of the Preface, the prayer transitions to the second constitutive element of the Eucharistic Prayer, with the Presider inviting the assembly to join the heavenly powers in *acclamation*, by joining in the *Sanctus* (*Holy, Holy, Holy*), the first of what are sometimes referred to as the Eucharistic Acclamations.

Like all such acclamations found during the liturgy, it is preferable for the *Sanctus* to be sung, and to be sung by the whole assembly. If for some reason it is not possible to be sung, then it is said by all those who are present (GIRM, n.79b).

After the *Sanctus* has been sung or said, the assembly kneels, ready to participate in the remainder of the Eucharistic Prayer in reverent silence (see GIRM, n.78).

Sometimes it is seen that members of the assembly begin to kneel before the *Sanctus* is finished, but we should be careful to ensure that we do not cut short our participation in the *Sanctus* by doing so nor unduly anticipate our change of posture for what is still to come.

When the *Sanctus* is completely finished, then we kneel, and the Presider waits until the assembly has changed posture and settle once more before continuing to voice the Eucharistic Prayer in the name of all those who have gathered.

There is no need to rush this; we have plenty of time to offer “the centre and high point of the entire celebration” (see GIRM, n.78).

Next week, in Part 7 of our exploration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we will continue looking at the nature and content of the Eucharistic Prayer.

To be continued...

St Francis of Assisi 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.

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Isaiah 22:19-23
Second: Romans 11:33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.

For more information, call
02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

Visit www.simplicityseptember.org.au; or use the QR code here.



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...)

21st Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 24 August
Feast of St Bartholomew

Tuesday 25 August
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Wednesday 26 August
8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 27 August
Memorial of St Monica
9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 28 August
Memorial of St Augustine
NO MASS Fr Andrew in Taree on Master of Ceremonies duty.

Saturday 29 August
Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 30 August
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog



In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August: Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Jean Kenney, Shirley Wade, Allen Kearns, Tony Townsend, Molly Turner.

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, Joyce Byron, Dori & Nick Neval.

Papal Prayer Intention for August: "Let us pray that in large cities marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community."