



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.

PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

13 SEPTEMBER 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 . . .

There can be little doubt that the scandalous crime of abuse perpetrated on the most vulnerable members of our Church and our society has left an indelible mark on the Church and its members.

Because of the bravery of those who have suffered in coming forward to telling their story, often in the face of initial disbelief, we can no longer pretend that we don't know nor that it is the responsibility of only some within the Church.

Having heard the recollections of those who have been hurt and injured, alongside those who have supported them, we are called to face the dark and criminal history of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle and, perhaps more importantly, to commit ourselves both to assisting those who have suffered and to doing everything within our power to eliminate the possibility of it happening again.

Now I freely admit that we cannot ensure it doesn't happen again with one hundred percent certainty; the presence of evil people even inside the Church must be likewise acknowledged.

But we can, and indeed we must, be committed to do whatever we can to protect those who are most

vulnerable within our Church and our broader community.

And the most effective way of doing that is to never close our eyes to potential dangers, to speaking up when things 'don't feel right', and being part of the efforts of the whole Church to make a change and protect those who most deserve our care and protection.

And most of all we can not pretend that protecting those who deserve it is the responsibility of someone else, let alone the sole responsibility of the hierarchy of the Church. All of us have a duty to be involved in protecting minors and vulnerable adults, a duty we cannot abrogate.

The actions of members of the Church, both ordained and lay, who have abused their position of authority for their own self-serving needs has rightly attracted the opprobrium of right-thinking people.

It is the action of members of the Church, corporately and individually, that will also ensure that we have heard the story of the Church's history and are determined to write a different story in the future.

Fr Andrew

Arrangements During Fr Andrew's Leave

During my pending time of leave while on pilgrimage to Ireland, Fr Dennis Rochford msc will be joining the parish community for the celebration of the usual schedule of weekend Masses. Fr Dennis is no stranger to the community, and I am grateful that he has once agreed to assist during my absence.

Please note that there will be no weekday Masses during the time I am away.

Fr Peter Street, currently stationed at Singleton, has generously offered to cover the celebration of any funerals during the time I am away, and again I am most grateful for Fr Peter's offer of assistance. The local funeral directors have been advised of this coverage.

The Parish Office will continue to function 'as usual' under the watchful eye of Kerry Copus and, while not always immediately contactable, I will be checking emails as time and internet access permit, though I cannot guarantee a response to anything that isn't urgent or absolutely necessary.

I will see you all when I return!

Fr Andrew

Celebration of Confirmation

Bishop Michael will visit our parish on Tuesday, 15 September to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with children from our parish.

The celebration of Confirmation will take place in St Mary's Church, Dungog, beginning at 6.30pm.

This year we have some fourteen candidates for Confirmation, and it would be wonderful for parishioners to come along to support them with prayer and presence at they celebrate this significant step in the journey of Christian Initiation.

Retreat Morning Opportunity

Dr Dan White retired from the role of Executive Director of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Sydney in 2019 after ten years of leadership and service.

Dan is offering a *Retreat Morning for Modern Day Emmaus Travellers* on Friday 23 October at St Stephen's Parish Hall, Witt Street, Tea Gardens, beginning at 9.15am and concluding at 1pm.

If attending you are asked to bring a notepad and pen, and a plate to share.

Prayer of Commitment to Safeguarding

God of compassion,
you know each of us by name
and hold every child close to your heart.
Your love is patient and kind,
not jealous or boastful,
not rude or self-seeking;
it bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things and it always protects.

Today we renew our commitment
to safeguarding in our parish:
to listen when someone finds the courage to speak,
to act without delay when there is a concern,
to tell the truth even when it costs us,
to never confuse mercy with silence,
and to reach out in practical care
to those most easily overlooked –
the children, the newcomer,
the housebound, the elderly,
the person living alone,
the person with a disability,
and anyone made vulnerable
by their circumstances.

May this parish be a true sanctuary,
safe for the smallest among us,
attentive to the most vulnerable,
honest with the truth,
and faithful to the God whose love always protects.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.



Virtual Pilgrimage

Follow the upcoming Pilgrimage to Ireland from the comfort of your own by visiting www.doo-han.id.au, where Fr Andrew will be posting a daily travel blog of the adventures.

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

24th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday 14 September

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

11am Funeral Mass for John Newton @
Dungog

Tuesday 15 September

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

8.30am Mass @ Dungog
6.30pm Confirmation @ Dungog

Wednesday 16 September

Memorial of Sts Cornelius and Cyprian

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 17 September

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 18 September

NO MASS Fr Andrew on Master of Ceremonies
duties

Saturday 19 September

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 20 September

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

8am Mass @ Clarence Town
9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Vocations Ministry: Turning Dreams into Action

Would you like to play a part in actively encouraging and supporting vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and the consecrated (religious life)?

If so, you are invited to a meeting to consider establishing a Serra Club in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. This local club would be a member of Serra International, a world-wide organisation, affirmed by the Holy See, which is committed to vocations ministry. This initiative has the support of Bishop Michael.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, 24 September, at 7pm, in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, 7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

For more information and to lodge your RSVP, please contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations, Fr Anthony Potts (0466 140 066, or email to tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au).

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at St Mary's, Dungog will take place in the Parish Hall after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday (20 September).

Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Those Who Have Died: John Newton.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In September:

Annie & Brian Maurer, Peggy Brennan, Godfrey Barry, Tony O'Hearn, Fr Brian Quillinan, Pat Byron, Marjory Neilson, Ivy Hinton, Arthur Sonter, Ron Neilson, Fr Peter Quirk, Tony & Mary Maurer, Kath Morrow, Frances Amy Young, Rowland Young, Dennis Melmouth, Dot Shurrey, Mary Moylan, Norm Barham, Eileen Godwin, Warren Trappel, Lachlan Tindall, Brian Byron, Margaret Moule, John Melmeth, Beryl Cooper, Paul Evans, Peter Byron, Heather Dawn Atkins, Sr Pat McGinty RSM, Hazel Bridger, John Bridger.

Those Who Are Sick and Unwell: Warren Wade, Keith Edwards, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Graham McCarthy, Paul Hardy, Monique Jones, Francis Byron, Bernadette Richardson, Joyce Byron, Dori & Nick Nezval, Joshua Kealy.

Papal Prayer Intention for September: "Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it."

Rewiring of St Mary's, Dungog

The necessary rewiring of St Mary's Church in Dungog will take place the week beginning Monday 21 September.

St Mary's will be entirely inaccessible for the first week as much of the more significant work is undertaken. Work in the church will continue thereafter with access slowly being restored.

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.

Electronic Banking Details

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

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:

First: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Second: Romans 14:7-9
Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for the living God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine in the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Ode to the Light of Christ

To be said by everyone after the Homily.

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make good come from evil
and find sweet in the bitter.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

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Memorial Acclamation:

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

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.

Visit the website of the diocese's [Office of Safe-guarding](#) website for more information.

