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.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS — 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Presbytery & Parish Office
55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420
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Parish School
St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly *(Principal)*
Mr Nick Hughes *(Assistant Principal)*

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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 dgcatholic.

A Pastoral Note . . .

The month of November is traditionally marked as the month where we Catholics pray for the dead, those of our relatives and friends who we hope and pray are now in that immediate presence of God we name as Heaven.

Praying for family and friends who have died is perfectly understandable: it is a continued expression of the love that we held for them while alive. Love cannot be undone by death; if we loved someone in this life, we are going to continue to love them once they are called from this life. It's natural, understandable, right and proper.

While praying for those we have known and love is indeed easy, what about those who have died that we did not know or who appear to have been forgotten?

Our belief in the communion of saints means that our prayers for those who have died extends beyond the known and loved to include those who died unknown and unloved.

Indeed, our prayers should encompass all those who have died, wherever and however they died, and regardless of whether they were known to us or not. This is not only an act of love on our part for our brothers and sisters, but also an act of mercy, that is of charity, on our part. It is simply part of what it means to be both Christian and Catholic.

And like all acts of love, praying for those who have died is not undertaken in the expectation of us receiving something. It is undertaken for the sake of the one we pray for, that they may encounter the unfathomable mercy of God and say 'yes' to God's invitation.

Which is not to say that we do not gain something when we pray for the dead. But what we gain is an expanded heart capable of even greater acts of love, a love that brings us no direct "benefit" but helps us to grow closer to God who is Love itself.

So during this month of November, I encourage you to pray for those who have died, those whom you have known and loved, but also those whom you have never known.

> *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

Fr Andrew's Annual Leave

Fr Andrew will begin the second (and final) tranche of his annual leave from tomorrow, 2 November, returning in time for the weekend of 14 & 15 November.

Fr Dennis Rochford msc will once again join the parish community next weekend for the Sunday Masses.

There will be limited weekday Masses during the first week of Fr Andrew's leave, and none during the second week.

Dungog Liturgical Ministries Roster

For a variety of reasons it is timely for the current liturgical ministries roster for St Mary's, Dungog to be updated.

If anyone is interested in being added to the roster as Readers or Ministers of Communion, or as Greeters, Sacristans, for the Presentation of the Gifts, etc., please let Fr Andrew know (in writing or by email) by the end of November.

Training and formation opportunities for all ministers will be organised prior to the new roster beginning.

2026 National Church Life Survey

The 2026 National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is designed to listen to Australian churches – leadership, parishioners, and the broader community – to develop a picture of the church's health and vitality.

Our Parish will complete the NCLS survey this weekend, with survey forms being available at each of the Masses for people to complete before departure. Each survey form will need to have the Church Code listed below inserted in the appropriate part of the form.

Online versions of the survey forms are also available for those who may wish to participate in that format. These can be accessed by going to https://attendersurvey.ncls.au and using the appropriate Church Code listed below where needed.

Church Codes:

St Helen's	TAN01205
St Patrick's	TAN01203
St Mary's	TAN01803

While participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, doing so will help our parish community in the ongoing task of identifying areas of priority for us to consider as part of our continuing pastoral planning process (as mentioned at this year's Parish Pastoral Assembly).

Thank you in advance to all who contribute to this process. *Fr Andrew*

Nourishment Day for Sacristans and Servers

Mission & Evangelisation is offering a Nourishment Day for Sacristans and Servers on Saturday 14 November in the Toohey Room, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. The day will run from 10am to 3pm.

The day is designed for parish sacristans, altar servers, senior servers, and those involved in liturgical ministry. The day will feature a formation session, practical workshops, fellowship & sharing, and lunch and refreshments.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is essential (visit t.ly/8N_kI) by 6 November.

World Youth Day 2027

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an extended retreat in Japan following.

Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an $800 deposit. Learn more at t.ly/dZOuO.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist – Part 8

After a short break while I was on pilgrimage to Ireland, we pick up the series of articles on the Liturgy of the Eucharist…

At the end of Part 8 we found ourselves looking at the *Institution narrative* of the Eucharistic Prayer. These words, the words used by Jesus at the Last Supper, are an important part of the Eucharistic Prayer and there are clear instructions surrounding how they should be pronounced and the ritual actions that accompany them.

The *Order of Mass* contains a very important direction in this regard: "In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires" (cf. nn. 89, 102, 110, and 119).

Occasionally it is possible to encounter a Presider who overly exaggerates "the words of the Lord" during the *Institution narrative* or pronounces them in an overly theatrical manner. Such an approach would seem to be contrary to the requirement indicated by a plain reading of "clearly and distinctly", an approach that perhaps should not alter the voice of the Presider in any way but rather ask the Presider to be careful in the manner these words are pronounced.

The ritual actions that accompany "the words of the Lord" are also specified in the *Order of Mass* in each of the four main Eucharistic Prayers (cf. nn. 89-90, 102-103, 110-111, and 119-120).

In summary these are:

- the *taking* of the bread or chalice from the altar to be held "slightly" above the altar. There is no requirement for the bread or chalice to held in such a way that the Presider appears to be speaking directly towards it.
- the Presider bows slightly before speaking the "words of the Lord". This is not an exaggerated bow as is sometimes encountered wherein the Presider bows low over the altar; it's a slight bow of the upper body. It may be helpful for a short pause to be observed by the Presider while he executes this slight change of posture.
- after speaking "the words of the Lord", the Presider *shows* the consecrated host or chalice to the Assembly. The word chosen to be used here is "show" not "elevate", which clearly means that there is a difference. The height of a "showing" when Mass is celebrated facing the Assembly, would be much lower than when it is not, and this should mean that an exaggerated height is inappropriate. I would suggest that anything above the Presider's head is simply too high and has moved from "showing" to an "elevation". The choice of the word "show" rather than "elevate" perhaps also indicates for how long the "showing" should last: not that long at all, seconds rather than minutes.
- after the Presider *shows* the consecrated host or chalice to the Assembly, they are returned to the altar and the Presider then genuflects in adoration. It should be noted that there is no mention here of the Assembly adoring the consecrated host or chalice, either during the "showing" or afterwards. Given that the Assembly should be watching the actions of the Presider, rather than averting their eyes as was sometimes encouraged in pre-conciliar celebrations, the adoration of the Assembly could be argued to have already taken place before the Presider returns the consecrated host or chalice to the altar.

The combination of "the words of the Lord" and the required ritual actions specified in the *Order of Mass* ensures that the *Institution narrative* is celebrated well and appropriately as is necessary for any part of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Having completed the *Institution narrative*, the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharistic continues with the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer. But that can wait until next week and Part 9 of the series.

To be continued…

Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:
First: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Second: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Responsorial Psalm:
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
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 Clarence Town

The next morning tea at St Patrick's, Clarence Town will take place under the pergola after the 8am Mass TODAY (1 November).

Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

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 Assisi Parish acknowledges that we gather, live, and work upon the traditional lands of the Worrimi 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…)*

30th Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

NB: *Fr Andew is on annual leave this week, and only those events listed below will be celebrated.*

Monday 2 November
Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
8.30am Mass @ Dungog
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Tuesday 3 November
10am Funeral Service for Bruce Banister @ Dungog

Wednesday 4 November
Memorial of St Charles Borromeo

Thursday 5 November

Friday 6 November
11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 7 November
5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Sunday 8 November
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
10.30am Mass @ Summer Hill

Life and Work of Fr Julian Tenison Woods

The Diocesan Resource Centre invites you to a special exhibition celebrating the life and work of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, inspired by Sr Jan Tranter's recently published book, *Julian Tenison Woods: The Human Journey – Priest, Founder, Friend*.

The exhibition is available now until the end of the year, and is open on Mondays (10am-5pm), Fridays (10am-5pm), and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month (10am-2pm).

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Recently Deceased: Bruce Banister.

November Anniversaries of Death: Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, Norma Kingston, Alfred Bridger, Neville Trappel, James Osmond.

Sick and Unwell: Warren Wade, Keith Edwards, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, Gwen Trappel, Graham McCarthy, Monique Jones, Bernadette Richardson, Joyce Byron, Dori & Nick Nezval, Joshua Kealy, Ken Meyn, Denise Jordan, Walter Chapman.

November Papal Prayer Intention: "Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity with those who have less."