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.

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Presbytery & Parish Office
55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420
Fr Andrew Doohan *(Parish Priest)*
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Parish School
St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly *(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 rise of incivility in public discourse has been hard to miss in recent times, and the more recent occasions of violence in the political arena are not something we should be proud of in our nation. Nor should we think we have no part to play in arresting such a disturbing development.

The seeming inability of far too many people to hold differing opinions and positions while still maintaining respect and fundamental 'positive regard' towards with whom we might disagree is an aspect of public life that should be of concern to everyone. This is particularly the case for those who claim the name Christian.

Christians believe that *every* human being – without exception – is created in the image and likeness of God, and, thus, is worthy of a fundamental respect.

We cannot withhold that respect from our brothers and sisters simply on the basis of disagreement over some opinion or belief.

Indeed I would argue that in the face of differing opinions we Christians might even be called to act with more respect towards those with whom we disagree than towards those with whom we agree.

Such a position, of course, does not mean that we stop engaging in conversation and debate, even forthright conversation and debate. It does mean, however, such engagement still needs to respect the fundamental dignity of those we engage.

Such debate and conversation must focus primarily, perhaps solely, on the content of the contest of ideas, rather than on the person 'on the other side'.

This is sometimes referred to as avoiding the *ad hominem* ("to the person") approach, which is a rhetorical and logical fallacy which immediately undermines the position we claim to hold while diminishing the other person's dignity.

The contest of ideas that is part of public discourse should be exactly that – a contest of ideas, even when argued with a certain robustness. If, however, we believe that the only way to 'win' a debate is to diminish, belittle, or denigrate the other person, we have already lost the contest of ideas.

Rather than diminishing the other, a resort to the *ad hominem* approach in public discourse only diminishes ourselves.

Have a blessed week . . .

Fr Andrew

Fr Andrew's Annual Leave

Fr Andrew's annual leave continues across this coming week.

We welcome Fr Dennis Rochford msc once again to the parish community this weekend for the Sunday Masses.

Living the gospel

Living in hope

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen to them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

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, featuring geological samples, books, photographs, a looping presentation and other items.

The exhibition is inspired by Sr Jan Tranter's recently published book, *Julian Tenison Woods: The Human Journey – Priest, Founder, Friend*, and is available now until the end of the year.

The Diocesan Resource Centre is open on Mondays (10am-5pm), Fridays (10am-5pm), and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month (10am-2pm).

2026 National Church Life Survey

Thank you to all who completed the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) forms, both in paper and online, last week. The completed paper forms have now been sent to the organisers of the survey and we await the results.

Once the results have been received, they will be made available to anyone who is interested in preparation for our ongoing pastoral planning process.

Fr Andrew

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.

Real Women Café Night

Bookings have now opened for the Real Women Café Night, to be held on Monday 16 November in St Mary's Church Hall, Warners Bay, from 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

The guest speaker is Joel Howlett, an international award-winning performer and entertainer, bringing impact and fun to the final Real Women's event for 2026.

The cost of tickets is $15 per person, with specific dietary requirements being met as far as possible if notified when purchasing tickets.

Bookings are essential! To get your ticket, call Sue (0417 091 255) or Marie (0429 191 245)

SRE & Children's Ministry Reflection Day

Spend a day with Bishop Michael and others Special Religious Education teachers, children's ministry leaders, and volunteers, pausing and reflecting upon the ministry across the year.

The day will take place on Thursday, 17 December at St Stephen's Church, Witt Street, Tea Gardens from 9.30am to 2pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

The day will offer Mass and space for spiritual refreshment, shared wisdom from the year that was, and meaningful conversation.

To register your attendance go to t.ly/1d2ED.

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 9

At the end of Part 8 we had concluded our look at the *Institution narrative* of the Eucharistic Prayer, and were ready to move on in our exploration of the Eucharistic Prayer.

But there were two things I forgot to mention that are connected with the *Institution narrative*. Both are covered n.150 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*.

The first of these is the use of incense. If incense is being used during Mass, then the thurifer (the person in charge of the incense-holding thurible) will incense the consecrated host and the chalice when they are shown to the gathered assembly. On more solemn occasions, this is another means of adding an appropriate show of respect towards the consecrated host and chalice.

The second concerns the use of "a small bell", again during each of the two showings. The bell is used "according to local custom", though its purpose in the current liturgy is questioned by some commentators.

With those two additional brief comments made, we can now move on to what comes immediately after the *Institution narrative*: the *memorial acclamation*.

This begins with the presider singing or saying, "The mystery of faith", with the assembly responding with one of the three options found in the *Roman Missal*. The current edition of the *Missal* (2010) has removed what many people believed to the most popular respond ("Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again") from the authorised responses, with the other three being retranslations of what was in the previous edition.

As indicated, the invitation from the presider can be sung, just as the assembly's response can be sung. As one of the three Eucharistic acclamations, it is perhaps preferable for the response to be sung, at least on Sundays and more solemn occasions.

The other thing to be said is that the response belongs to the assembly; it is thus not appropriate for the presider to join in – or start for that matter – the response to the invitation "The mystery of faith". The presider should remain silent, and allow the voice of the assembly to be heard.

The choice of which response to be used is thus in the hands of the assembly. When it is sung, this can be led by the musicians; when it is not, someone – not the presider – simply needs to start.

With the *memorial acclamation* now complete, we move on to the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer. But that can wait until Part 10 of the series.

To be continued…

Stella Maris Port Chaplain – Port of Newcastle

Make a difference where it is needed most.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is seeking a part-time Stella Maris Port Chaplain to provide pastoral care, support, and hospitality to seafarers visiting the Port of Newcastle.

If you are passionate about supporting others, this might be the role for you. Learn more about the role by going to t.ly/CCpDn or by emailing James Camden, Director of Mission and Evangelisation at james.camden@mn.catholic.org.au.

Applications close Monday 16 November, with interviews scheduled for later that week.



Today's Liturgy

Scripture Readings:
First: Wisdom 6:12-16
Second: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Responsorial Psalm:
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
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 Dungog

The next morning tea at St Mary's, Dungog will take place in the Parish Hall after the 10am Mass next Sunday (15 November).

Please bring a plate to share, and 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…)*

32nd Week in Ordinary Time, Year A

NB: *Fr Andew is on annual leave this week; there will be no weekday liturgies.*

Monday 9 November
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Tuesday 10 November
Memorial of St Leo the Great

Wednesday 11 November
Memorial of St Martin of Tours

Thursday 12 November
Memorial of St Josaphat
11.30am Funeral for Paul Schembri @ Dungog

Friday 13 November

Saturday 14 November
5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 15 November
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
8am Mass @ Clarence Town
10am Mass @ Dungog



In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

Recently Deceased: Bruce Banister, Paul Schembri.

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."