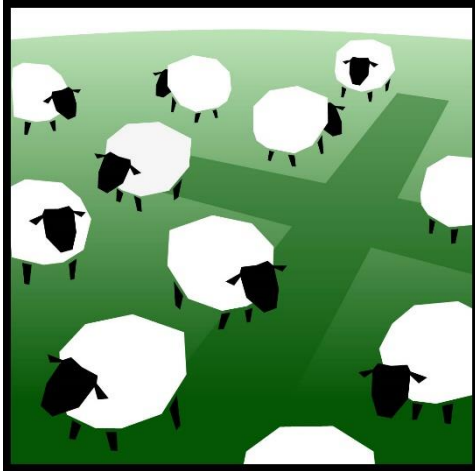




The Catholic Parishes of Branxton and Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**21 July 2024**



**First Reading**      **Jeremiah 23:1-6**  
*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!  
'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved And Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'  
The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 22 R v.2**

*(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. *(R.)*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff, with these you give me comfort. *(R.)*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. *(R.)*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow  
me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. *(R.)*

**Second Reading**      **Ephesians 2:13-18**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.*

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**      **John 10:27**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**My sheep listen to my voice,**  
**says the Lord;**  
**I know them, and they follow me.**  
**to which we are called. Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      **Mark 6:30-34**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even

to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.  
The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**REFLECTION  
BY NICK BRODIE**

**Francis' Focus**

'Compassion', Pope Francis says, 'is born from contemplation.' This, he intimates, is the essence of today's Gospel passage. 'If we learn to truly rest,' he says, 'we become capable of true compassion.'

As the Pope points out, Jesus recognised that his disciples needed rest. None of us can or should be busy all the time. There is a danger for Christians, the Pope warns, 'to be caught up in the frenzy of doing things, to fall into the trap of activism'.

We should always remember that the crowd went to meet Jesus. They sought him out because his message was attractive and attracting.

'How many times this happens in the Church', the Pope suggests, where 'we risk neglecting Jesus and ... make ourselves the centre.' Sometimes parishes are burdened with so many corporate evangelisation plans, programs, and pastoral activities that people are wearied. The Church, at every level, occasionally needs to pause and listen for the crowd that is searching for Jesus.

As the Pope reflects, 'only a heart that does not allow itself to be taken over by hastiness is capable of being moved'. Jesus saw the people and understood their needs. Through us he is still trying to, if only we will slow down and let him.

© Nick Brodie

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B  
**1st Reading:** 2 Kings 4:42-44  
**2nd Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-6  
**Gospel:** John 6:1-15

**MYSTERY OF FAITH**  
*When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

## Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Cecily Agnew, Mary Bailey, Karl Bendeich, Basil Bendeich, Carmel Bendeich, Lorraine Cooper, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Lynne Williams, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Recently Deceased:** Warren Markham. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Anniversaries:** Very Rev Peter Meagher, Colin Crow, Barry Davy, Ellen Holz, Janina Orlowski, Jan Orlowski, Janice Tierney. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Kora Edwards, Laykn Edwards, Tealie Shearer (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

*Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.*

## PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	

## Schools in our Parishes

<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Singleton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Branxton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Stella Danks</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 28 JULY 2024

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 5pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke		J Dries	J Dries	<b>NO COUNTING OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	<b>SCAE LEADER REQD</b>		
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	L Harrison	S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	A Skardon	
<b>Offertory</b>	K Jones K Jones	D Clarke J Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		C Miller				

*Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

## WEEKLY MASS DIARY

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>22 July</b> <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	<b>23 July</b> <i>St Bridget</i>	<b>24 July</b> <i>St Sharbel Makhlu</i>	<b>25 July</b> <i>ST JAMES, APOSTLE</i>	<b>26 July</b> <i>St Joachim &amp; Ann</i>	<b>27 July</b>	<b>28 July</b> SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<b>8.00am Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.20am Anointing Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.00am Novena Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<b>7.00am Mass</b> <b>10.00am SCAE</b> <b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<b>6.00pm SCAE</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<b>7.35am Rosary</b> <b>8.15am Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

***St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us***

# Weekly Notices

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish, we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

## SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## Parish Office Hours for July

Other than the usual Monday closure, the Parish office will be closed on Thurs 18 July, the week of 22-26 July, Thursday 1 August and Friday 9 August.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations

Bishop Michael Kennedy invites the People of the Diocese to join him in celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at a concelebrated Mass commencing at 11am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton on Wednesday 14 August 2024. There will be other priest and deacon jubilarians acknowledged at the Mass. All are welcome!

## Follow the Yellow Brick Road this August!

Tickets are now on sale for St Catherine's Catholic College's production of The Wizard of Oz! Students and staff having been working hard all year to bring this show to life for their college family and friends and the wider Singleton community! Show times are Friday 16 August at 6.30pm and Saturday 17 August at 2.00pm and 6.30pm.

Tickets available via <https://www.trybooking.com/CTBXU>  
Adults \$20, Students/Concession \$10 and Family of 4 \$50.

## aMeN caMiNo Community Walk

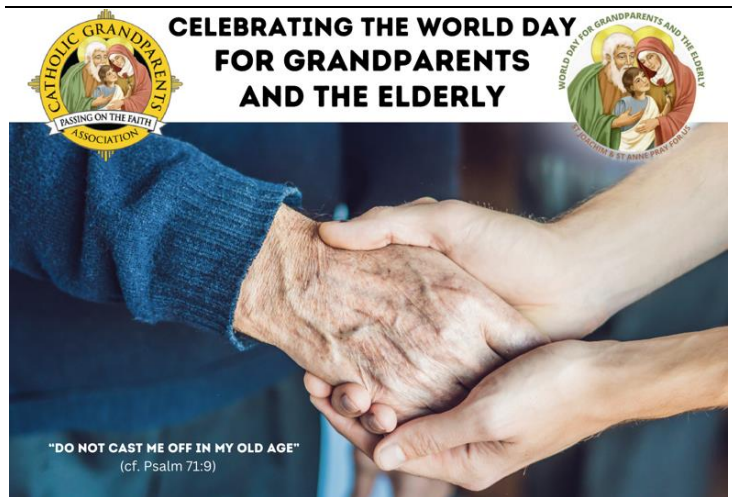
We invite you to sample the aMeN caMiNo experience through this Community Walk on Saturday 17 August 2024 from 8am-11am beginning at Merewether. Register your Interest here: <https://forms.office.com/r/w3tX1w69t3>.

## aMeN caMiNo Seasons of Creation Weekend Retreat

Join us for an aMeN caMiNo weekend experience during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. This caMiNo is suitable for both beginners and experienced walkers. It offers a one or two-day experience on 7 and 8 September. For more information visit our website: [mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino](http://mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino).

## Growth Formation Retreat

Jesus, Light of the World Communities will be hosting a retreat in August. Over two nights and three days from 23 to 25 August, the retreat will include a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, workshops, discussions and an hour of empowerment. It's being hosted at the Collaroy Centre. Accommodation is available from \$360 per twin share or \$450 for single. Call Helen on 0433 455 114 for more information or to book.



## 2024 World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which took place for the first time on Sunday 25 July 2021. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated for the fourth time in 2024 on Sunday 28 July - the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration is: "**Do not cast me off in my old age**" (cf. **Psalm 71:9**). Grandparents and the elderly are often overlooked, but this day in the Universal Church calendar is a momentous achievement for Grandparents and the elderly and will hopefully reassure them that they are loved and that they are needed especially for their role and vocation in passing on their faith to the next generation.

In a move to foster devotion among the faithful, the Apostolic Penitentiary will grant a Plenary Indulgence to Catholics taking part in the upcoming Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, at the request of Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life. According to a Decree signed by the Major Penitentiary, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the plenary indulgence will be granted to grandparents, the elderly, and all faithful who "*motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity*" will participate in the various functions to be held for the Day throughout the world. The indulgence is subject to the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. It will be valid only for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. A plenary indulgence offers remission of the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven, which can be applied to oneself or to the souls in Purgatory.

## Scone Film Festival – The Way, My Way

THE WAY, MY WAY is the charming and captivating true story of a stubborn, self-centred Australian man who decides to walk the 800-kilometre-long Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through Spain. He doesn't know why he's doing it... but one step at a time, it will change him and his outlook on life forever. Based on Bill Bennett's best-selling memoir of the same name. The movie will show at the Scone Films Pop Up Cinema, Cnr of Oxford Rd and Cooper St Scone on Friday 26 July. Tickets are available via <https://www.sconefilms.org.au/> or with cash at the door.

## Season of Creation: Wonder – Weaving - Healing

Join Catholic Earthcare and their Season of Creation Convocation for three special events in September.

- Thurs 12 and Fri 13 September - online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences
- Saturday 14 September at Diocesan Resource Centre - hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese and consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration.

Information and Registration at:

[www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165)

# Spotlight on Safeguarding – July 2024



Contact us

02 9281 3600

1800 424 079

Interpreter Service 131 450

National Relay Service 133 677

info@SeniorsRightsService.org.au

SeniorsRightsService.org.au

Gadigal Land  
Suite 201 / 418a Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Seniors Rights Service receives funding from:

- Older Person's Advocacy Network (OPAN)
- NSW Fair Trading
- Legal Aid NSW
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice

This is information only and not legal or financial advice. If you have a legal or financial problem call our service directly, see your lawyer or a financial advisor. Laws vary from state to state.

Seniors Rights Service Limited | ABN 98 052 960 862 | ACN 626 676 533



Legal | Advocacy | Information  
Your rights. Your voice.

For free and confidential advice  
call 02 9281 3600

## Information

We provide targeted rights-based information to a diverse range of older people regardless of cultural background or sexual orientation.

Our aged care advocates, solicitors and education staff travel across NSW to support aged care recipients and the wider community.

We hold information sessions at community groups, clubs, social and professional groups, aged care homes and retirement villages. We also organise forums and discussion panels. We collaborate with organisations and community groups to develop and implement projects on specific issues such as financial abuse of older people.



## Legal

Our legal service provides information, referrals, advice and other assistance to older people in NSW on their legal issues. We are a fully accredited community legal centre.

Some of the many issues that we advise on include:

**General legal advice** relating to:

- Consumer issues
- Credit and debt
- Discrimination
- Elder abuse and financial exploitation
- Employment
- Family law (not including property settlement)
- Fines and motor vehicle accidents
- Issues with neighbours
- Guardianship and later life planning
- Residential tenancy and land lease communities
- Victim / survivors of violence
- Victims compensation, National Redress and Stolen Generations Reparations

**Retirement village legal advice** on disputes with retirement village management or interpretation of retirement village contracts.

**Residential aged care legal advice.**

**Strata legal advice** on disputes with strata committees, owners corporations or strata management agents as well as on strata collective sales or redevelopment proposals.

**Documents for the future**, such as a Power of Attorney, Guardianship and Advance Health Care Directives.

## Advocacy services

If you have questions or concerns about aged care services, Seniors Rights Service is here to help.

Our professional and caring aged care advocates will help you by:

- Listening to your concerns
- Providing information about your rights and responsibilities
- Helping resolve problems or complaints with your aged care service providers
- Speaking with your service provider if required
- Referring to other agencies that can provide additional support, if necessary

Our team of specialist financial advocates help older people with increasingly complex aged care financing arrangements.

They can help with the income and assets assessment process for residential aged care and offer information and support on a range of different issues concerning government funded aged care.

**Who can we help?**

Our service is available to anyone in NSW who is using or seeking to access aged care services. This includes services in your own home as well as residential aged care homes.

You can also contact us if you have questions or concerns about the care of a family member.

## Community Engagement

We provide a range of community engagement programs and activities to meet the changing needs of our community.

Home Care Check-In Project is a pilot project in the Hunter New England area offering proactive, preventive advocacy support to older persons with complex needs and/or higher risk of experiencing harm. This service includes face to face and phone check ins, pre-emptive intervention referrals and information provision.

Our Community Network Development project increases awareness of referral pathways to advocacy services for older people. Focusing on raising awareness of aged care advocacy services via community based activities and events, as well as the promotion of an Aged Care Self-Advocacy Toolkit.

We work with OPAN to deliver the Planning for Diversity workshop series to aged care providers. The project offers practical information and tools to make aged care services more inclusive of older people from diverse and marginalised groups.

