



**First Reading Proverbs 9:1-6**  
*A reading from the book of Proverbs*

Wisdom has built herself a house,  
she has erected her seven pillars,  
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared  
her wine,  
she has laid her table.

She has despatched her maidservants  
and proclaimed from the city's heights:  
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'

To the fool she says,  
'Come and eat my bread,  
drink the wine I have prepared!  
Leave your folly and you will live,  
walk in the ways of perception.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing, those who revere him.  
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.  
**(R.)**

Come children, and hear me  
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **(R.)**

Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek and strive after peace. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation John 6:56**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel John 6:51-58**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

Jesus said to the crowd:  
'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,  
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,  
you will not have life in you.  
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day.  
For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink.  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me  
and I live in him.  
As I, who am sent by the living Father,  
myself draw life from the Father,  
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.  
This is the bread come down from heaven;  
not like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**REFLECTION**  
**BY NICK BRODIE**

**Francis' Focus**

'The Eucharist', Pope Francis famously said, 'is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' Reflecting on today's Gospel passage, the Pope encourages us to avoid becoming 'arbiters of grace'. Rather, he says, we should be 'its facilitators'.

As the Pope points out, Jesus gives us the Eucharist 'with a specific purpose: that we may become one with him.'

'The Eucharist is Jesus himself who gives himself entirely to us', the Pope reminds us, which helps us to become a living 'gift to God and to our brothers and sisters.'

In one sense, we do this individually. Being nourished by the Eucharist, the Pope explains, 'means entering into harmony with the heart of Christ, assimilating his choices, his thoughts, his behaviour.' Each of us therefore seeks to become what we consume.

But we do not do so alone. Communion is a celebration of the Body of Christ – the Church – which means we are being transformed together as the pilgrim People of God. Communion, the Pope says, 'means entering into a dynamism of love and becoming people of peace, people of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of sharing in solidarity.'

What this all means is that we should approach the Eucharist with openness to being changed, individually and collectively, into the Bread of Life for all.

© Nick Brodie

|   |
|---|
| <b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b><br>Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;<br>and look on the face of your anointed one;<br>one day within your courts<br>is better than a thousand elsewhere.       |
| <b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b><br>With the Lord there is mercy;<br>in him is plentiful redemption.  |
| <b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b><br>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B<br><b>1st Reading:</b> Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18<br><b>2nd Reading:</b> Ephesians 5:21-32<br><b>Gospel:</b> John 6:60-69 |
| <b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b><br><i>When we eat this Bread and drink<br/>this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O<br/>Lord, until you come again.</i>  |

## Prayer Requests

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

**Anniversaries:** Rev Harry Fenton, John Archinal, Mary Brodbeck, Terry Clarke, John Crismale, Gladys Garner, Mary Ellen Holz, Carmel Prazuskas, Dot Spencer. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Paula Redgrove RSM (Tues 20/8 10.30am Convent Chapel), Charlotte Gallagher (Weds 21/8 11am St Patrick's), Lino Trinca (Coogee). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

*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)<br>Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a><br>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><br>Contact via the Parish Office                     | Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol<br>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   |  |
| <b>Schools in our Parishes</b>  |  |   |  |
| <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 25 AUGUST 2024

|                      | <b>Branxton<br/>Saturday 6pm</b> | <b>Greta<br/>Sunday 8am</b> | <b>Singleton<br/>Sunday 7am</b> | <b>Singleton<br/>Sunday 10am</b> | <b>Singleton<br/>Sunday 5pm</b>        | <b>Counters<br/>9.30am Tuesday</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcomer</b>      | E Bendeich                       | D & J Clarke                | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>         | J Dries                          | J Dries                                | G McMillan                         |
| <b>Commentator</b>   |                                  | K Ingold                    | G Cattermole                    | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>          | <b>SCAE LEADER REQD</b>                |                                    |
| <b>Readers</b>       | C Zaragoza<br>M Thomas           | L Harrison                  | S Bates                         | R James<br>D Cantrall            | H Rapp<br>C Brackenrig<br>O Brackenrig |                                    |
| <b>Prayers</b>       |                                  | K Ingold                    | E Thomas                        | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>          | A Skardon                              |                                    |
| <b>Offertory</b>     | K Jones<br>K Jones               | D Clarke<br>J Clarke        | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>         | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>          | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>                |                                    |
| <b>Rosary Leader</b> |                                  | L Gorczyca                  |                                 |                                  |  |                                    |

*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>19 August</b><br><i>St John Eudes</i>                      | <b>20 August</b><br><i>St Bernard</i>                         | <b>21 August</b><br><i>St Pius X</i>   | <b>22 August</b><br><i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <b>23 August</b><br><i>St Rose of Lima</i>                    | <b>24 August</b><br><i>ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE</i>   | <b>25 August</b><br><i>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B</i>   |
| <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>  | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>   | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>  | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>  |  |   |
| <u>8.00am</u><br><b>Mass</b><br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>5.00pm</u><br><b>LOTW</b><br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u><br><b>Mass</b><br><u>5.30pm</u><br><b>Holy Communion Practice</b><br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>5.00pm</u><br><b>LOTW</b><br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>       | <u>9.20am</u><br><b>Mass</b><br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.00am</u> Novena<br><u>9.20am</u> Mass<br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i><br><br><u>5.00pm</u> SCAE<br><i>Glendonbrook</i> | <u>7.00am</u> Mass<br><u>10.00am</u> Mass<br><b>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION</b><br><u>5.00pm</u> SCAE<br><i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> |
|   | <b>NO MASS</b><br><i>St Catherine's Greta</i>                 |  | <b>NO MASS</b><br><i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>                       |   | <u>6.00pm</u><br><b>Mass</b><br><b>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION</b><br><i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>                                   | <u>7.35am</u> Rosary<br><u>8.15am</u><br><b>Mass</b><br><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.

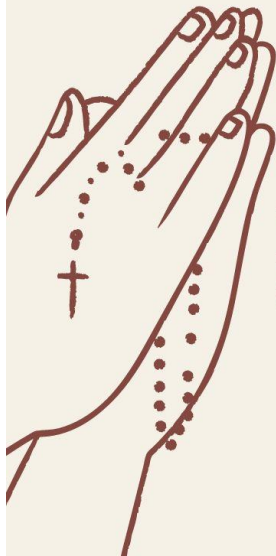
## SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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.

## Changes to Mass this Week

Fr Thomas will not be available to say Mass on Tuesday 20 August at Branxton and Singleton and Thursday 22 August at Greta and Singleton.

Please keep the children of our parishes who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time next weekend in your prayers. Everyone is welcome to support them by attending Mass in Branxton at 6pm and Singleton at 10am.



Life not what you expect it to be?

Man-made solutions not helping?

Why not join us to pray the Rosary and let Jesus into your life!

Jesus loves and wants to help everyone!

**ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH, GRETA**  
SUNDAYS 7.50AM  
TUESDAYS 8.55AM

## 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).

## Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade

The pilgrimage travels to four Churches over 6.5kms. The starting point is at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West at 11.00am on 14th September. Pilgrims will walk to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Islington), St Mary's Star of the Sea (Newcastle) St Joseph's (Merewether) returning to the Sacred Heart Cathedral at approximately 1.00pm. Register before 7 September at: <https://forms.office.com/r/q5fKj1HdgW>

## National Child Protection Week

Child abuse and neglect is preventable. If we all work together as a community, we can create an Australia where all children can grow up safe and well. What role can you play in supporting children and their families? Richard Cooke, CEO, NAPCAN

National Child Protection Week invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. National Child Protection Week (NCPW) will take place from 1-7 September in 2024. This year, the theme is:

### **'EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS'**

We can all play a part by creating stronger, safer neighbourhoods. This can be achieved by talking to your neighbours, checking in with friends, being a good role model, supporting and being kind to parents rather than judging or being competitive, offering to assist where possible, and speaking up if you see something that is unsafe.

It is important that we listen to, and value, what children have to say. Where possible, include their voices in decision-making and be advocates for their best interest.

By speaking regularly with children about their personal safety and how they can protect themselves, as well as "tuning in" to their worries, children are more likely to trust us and feel comfortable to talk with us when something big is going on.

Make your influence positive; start a conversation today with your colleagues and families about listening to and valuing the voice of children and young people.

For more information and resources go to <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au>



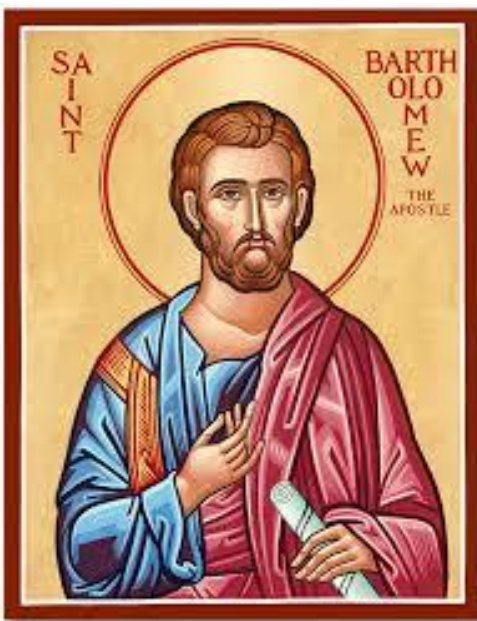
## Season of Creation: Sing

All in the Newcastle, Hunter and Manning community are invited to gather to sing in praise and wonder of creation as a celebration of the Season of Creation on Saturday 21 September 2024, 2-4pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral. In the spirit of community choirs, we will learn a song, pray, and enjoy afternoon tea. Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/xKCr907ew6> Please bring a cutting of a favourite plant to exchange your cuttings during prayer. Those who love taking photos of nature can join the **Season of Creation Photography** initiative and send your image/s to [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) by 16/09/24. The images will be displayed at Creation Sing.

## Billings Natural Fertility Awareness Week

Natural Fertility Awareness Week 2024 (August 19 - 25) promotes an alternative, healthy option to family planning compared with chemical and other contraceptive devices. The theme this year is: "Trust your body's natural signs of fertility: Forget about drugs and devices." You are invited to join the Billings LIFE free webinar on 19 August 2024 at 7:30pm AEST where you can listen to the conversation about the basics of the Billings Ovulation Method® and its application, including during times of breastfeeding. <https://events.humanitix.com/trust-your-body-s-natural-signals-of-fertility-free-webinar> Further info @ ph: 1800 335 860 or website: [www.billings.life/en/](http://www.billings.life/en/)





Use the words below to find out what Jesus said to his apostles.


Those who \_\_\_ my flesh  
and \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_  
will have \_\_\_\_\_ life,  
and I will \_\_\_\_\_ them  
up on the last \_\_\_\_\_.


**Saint Bartholomew, Apostle** was one of the twelve apostles, but very little is known about him. Scholars believe that he was the man known as Nathanael, who was introduced to Jesus by St Philip. In the synoptic Gospels he is named Bartholomew, which means 'son of Tolmai'. Some believe that he may have preached in India where a Hebrew copy of Matthew's Gospel was found, believed to have been left by Bartholomew. He is also believed to have preached in Armenia where he was martyred. Bartholomew is mentioned in the gospels as Jesus' apostle and is often associated with Philip. Tradition holds that he preached widely in parts of Asia.





eternal  
blood  
day  
drink  
eat  
raise


Can you complete this crossword puzzle? It uses pictures as clues instead of words!

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

The crossword puzzle grid is as follows:

|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 |  |   | 2 |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |  | 4 |   |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |  | 5 |   |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |