

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
A reading from the letter of St James.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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



**REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE**

Francis' Focus

'You put aside the commandment of God,' warned Jesus, 'to cling to human traditions.' One of the sharpest lines in the Gospel, this is a watchword for every Christian generation.

'In today's passage,' Pope Francis says, 'Jesus addresses an important topic for all of us believers: the authenticity of our obedience to the Word of God, against any worldly contamination or legalistic formalism.'

As the Pope suggests, 'those challenging him seek to strike at the reliability and authority of Jesus as Teacher.' The religious leaders who questioned Jesus on technical points of ritual had deluded themselves about what was essential.

The Pope points out that 'Jesus wants to rouse the scribes and Pharisees from the error they have fallen into.' Christ's sharp words are intended to turn people from 'distorting God's will, neglecting his commandments in order to observe human traditions.'

'Today too,' the Pope reminds us, 'the Lord invites us to avoid the danger of giving more importance to form than to substance. He calls us to recognise, ever anew, what is the true core of the experience of faith, that is, love of God and love of neighbour.'

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**ST VINCENT
DE PAUL
WINTER
APPEAL**

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the parishioners of Branxton and Greta for donating to the Vinnies Winter Appeal in August.
\$870 was raised!

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B 1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7 2nd Reading: James 2:1-5 Gospel: Mark 7:31-37
MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

We remember in our prayers:

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

Baptisms: Luca Walters (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Anniversaries: Laura Burton, Kathy Dunn, Piet Janssen, John McAleer, Drusilla Nowlan.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Mass intentions for publication may be written on an envelope and placed on the collection plate or emailed or phoned to the Parish Office by 12pm Wednesday. Mass offering envelopes are available in each church entrance. Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person or their family to enable names to be published.

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	Promoters of Safeguarding Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
St Patrick's Parish	PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)		
Singleton	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
St Brigid's Parish	PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)		
Branxton	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Stella Danks	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2024						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	SCAE LEADER REQD A Humphreys	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	S McAilster S Trunk	J Nightingale N Ernst	J Dunn M Jones	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 September	3 September <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	4 September	5 September	6 September	7 September	8 September TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mas St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Adoration & Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.55am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		No Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

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 or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

Changes this Week

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 3 September. No Mass at Branxton on Thursday 5 September while Fr Thomas is in training. Welcome to Fr John Tobin who will be celebrating Mass at Branxton this Saturday.

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 September 2024 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for Kathy Dunn and Peter Ernst. and all those whose anniversaries occur in September. We also welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday.

Volunteers Needed – Presbytery and Cemetery Singleton

We are in urgent need of volunteers to assist with mowing, garden and lawn maintenance at our Queen Street Cemetery and at the Presbytery. If you can spare some time to assist, please contact the Parish Office.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. All are singles are welcome and we would love to see you there.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 1pm in the home Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights (enter via Willcox Ave). All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

St Brigid's Caritas Group Monthly Lunch

The next monthly lunch for the St Brigid's Parish Caritas will be held at Miller Park Hotel on Friday 20 September from 12 noon. All are welcome to join the group for a chat over a meal.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

September 15, promulgated as a 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' in our diocese, marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children. It has two aspects: one focused on supporting survivors and the other on the prayer of the whole church. This year Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on September 15. As a people of faith, we can pray for a change of heart as the ground of hope for a safer future for all. Special prayer resources are available online at www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/perpetual-day-of-remembrance Every person is invited to use and help disseminate the resource for Individuals and households as widely as possible. May Christ be our Light.

Hope Tree Group – Project 19 Water Tanks Burundi



Sr Cecile from the congregation of Immaculate Heart of Mary (Bene Maria) in Burundi has contacted the Hope Tree Group to assist with installing new water tanks at the hostel where students stay to attend school. At the moment, they are collecting water from the river and transporting back to the hostel to use. You may remember that we assisted the children by supplying new mattresses in the hostel.

The Hope Tree Group is hoping to donate \$1800 for two new tanks to be installed. Cash donations can be left in the donation box at each church or donate online by clicking the DONATE button on our website www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au and scrolling to the details for Hope Tree Group.

National Child Protection Week

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: Sings

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 by 16/09/24. The images will be displayed at Creation Sings.

2024-2025 Social Justice Statement – Zoom Discussion

In the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement – *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace. Join us for an online Zoom discussion on Wednesday 4 September at 7pm, as we break open the document, hear responses from across our Diocese, and participate in small group discussions on how we can be peacemakers in our communities. Register Here: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/truth-and-peace-exploring-the-social-justice-statement-tickets-991438247487

Congratulations!



Congratulations to the participants of this year's Parish Sacramental Program for becoming full members of the church. Coming to the altar to receive the eucharist for the first time last weekend completes their process of Christian Initiation.

God Bless all of you as you now continue to be disciples by returning each Sunday to be nourished by the Word of God and the Body of Christ.

Thank you to the members of the Sacramental Teams, especially Lydia Gorczyca and Leanne O'Brien for all their work to organise the program.

Thank you also to the parents and carers for supporting their children in their faith journey. Please continue to encourage the growth in their faith.



HAPPY Father's Day

God our Father, through the intercession of St Joseph, the foster father of Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we give you thanks and praise for all fathers in the world.

We pray for them so that they may find courage and perseverance to balance work, family, and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for those whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men, especially the clergy, who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live in our memory and nourish us with their love. Bless them and may they rest in peace. Amen

