

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

16 February 2025

First Reading **Jeremiah 17:5-8**
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Cor 15:12, 16-20**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Luke 6:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 6:17, 20-26**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:
'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.
'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

We cannot be authentic followers of Christ if we adore riches to the neglect of the poor.

Followers of Jesus, Pope Francis reflects, 'do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on.'

In fact, he adds, true disciples of Jesus are 'content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God.'

The Beatitudes, the Pope explains, 'may sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples.' But as challenging as they are, they ultimately 'define the identity of the disciple of Jesus.' For Christians, they are non-negotiable.

What the Beatitudes do, the Pope suggests, is remind us that 'disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our mindset, but we into his.'

'Disciples,' the Pope reminds us, 'in the end, are those who let themselves be led by Jesus, who open their heart to Jesus, who listen to him and follow his path.'

Such a path involves openness to the joys of the present, wherever we may find them. It also involves a readiness and willingness to become Christ's blessing to others.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Jose De Sousa, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Liz Matt, Dulcie Maynard, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Allan Seque, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Baptisms: Jaylan Turnbull, Zahlee, Alfie and Oaklee Rowe (Branxton). Alfie Anderson and Adalyn Humphrey, James Walker. (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God. Anniversaries: Anne Archinal, Pat Behringer, Victoria Diputado, Ate Salve, Edna Tierney, Gloria Trunk 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. <i>Mass intentions may be written on an envelope and placed on the collection plate, emailed or phoned to the Parish Office by 12pm Wednesday. Mass offering envelopes are available in each church. 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.</i>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, C 1st Read: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 Gospel: Luke 6:27-38	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i>	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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)			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Bora</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	SCAE LEADER REQ Praise and Worship	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	H Duldulao	Praise and Worship	A Skardon	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	C Miller A Humphreys	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk	L Gorczyca	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Cochrane	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

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
17 February <i>Seven Founders of Servites</i>	18 February	19 February	20 February	21 February <i>St Peter Damian</i>	22 February <i>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE</i>	23 February <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 6.00pm SCAE Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00m SCAE 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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.

2025 Parish Sacramental Program

Expression of interests are being sought for children in Year 3 and above in 2025 who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please email the parish office with your child's name, date of birth and parish.

Changes this Week

The Parish Office will be CLOSED Monday, Tuesday and Thursday this week. Fr Thomas will be attending the Rosary Park Opening Liturgy on Friday morning so there will be NO morning Mass in Singleton on 21 February. The Mass at the Mercy Home has been moved to Friday 28 February.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas Group invite everyone to join them for lunch on Friday 21 February at Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All are welcome to join the group for lunch.

Feast Light Singleton

The Feast Light - Singleton is inviting everyone for a short moment of Praise and Worship at 9:45am before the 10am Sunday Mass on the 23 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church. This is upon the invitation of Fr. Thomas. Our group is also providing morning tea after the mass. We also invite you to join our monthly prayer meeting which we call Feast Light. We have a Praise and Worship, powerful spiritual video teachings and fellowship. This is every 4th Sunday of the month in the church after the morning tea. We look forward to seeing you there!

Singleton Sacramental Program

Children of the Singleton Parish who are in Year 3 or above and are ready to receive the Sacraments of *Reconciliation*, *Confirmation* and *Holy Communion* are invited to attend an Information Meeting at St Patrick's Church Singleton on Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 5.30pm. All information regarding the program will be given out at this meeting.

150th Anniversary of St Catherine's College Singleton

2025 sees the 150th Anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy developing the catholic education traditions at St Catherine's College in Singleton. A group of past and present staff and students are continuing the historical documentation that Pam Como began. They would love anything and everything that you may have from 1974 to the present. These could include personal stories, memorabilia, uniforms, awards, newsletters or anything of personal significance relating to the school. All items will be returned. Please drop any items to the Parish Office during office hours, clearly labelled with your name and contact details.

PARISH PROPERTY NEWS

SINGLETON PARISH

The sale of 13 Campbell St, Singleton was settled on Friday 31 January 2025. The property was sold for \$506,000. The Finance Council will meet to discuss options for the use of these funds.

BRANXTON PARISH

The vacant property adjacent to Rosary Park Catholic School in Station Street was transferred to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for future expansion of the school. The Diocese have given the Branxton Parish \$880,000 for this land. The Branxton Parish Finance Council have proposed that these funds be used to subdivide land on the corner of Maitland and Station Streets to build two dwellings. It is proposed that these dwellings will then be leased to provide the parish with a sustainable income in the future.

Diocesan Launch of the Jubilee Year

Bishop Michael invites everyone to celebrate the Jubilee Year with a Diocesan pilgrimage on Sunday 2 March 2025 from Nobby's Beach (8am) to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass (10am) and a Festival (11am) in the Cathedral precinct grounds. The festival will feature an official Launch of *Project Compassion 2025* and distribution of some resources. All corners of the Diocese are encouraged to have representation and involvement as we mark Pope Francis' theme - *Pilgrims of Hope*. For more information email mission@mn.catholic.org.au

World Day of Prayer - 2025

The 2025 World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 7 March at 10am in the Uniting Church, Branxton and at 7pm in All Saints Anglican Church, Singleton. This year's country of focus is the Cook Islands. Attendees to both services are asked to bring a plate of food to share.

The Rite of Election

The Rite of Election on Sunday 9 March 2025 is an opportunity to welcome all Catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a Catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 2.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by Afternoon Aea. RSVP for catering to E mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

Sisters of Faith Dinner

Our annual dinner on Thursday 20 February provides an enjoyable and respectful evening of dialogue among women from diverse backgrounds and faiths, fostering learning, sharing, and unity. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Faaimata Havea Hiliau, Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT, as this year's guest speaker. The Moderator is elected to give prophetic and pastoral leadership to the people and congregations of the Synod and called to remind the church of our hope in Jesus Christ. The dinner will be held in the Victor Peters Suite at the Diocese Office 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. Tickets for the dinner are limited to 100 women and can be purchased at a heavily subsidised price of \$35 from this link <https://sisters-faith-2025.eventbrite.com.au> If you have any questions, please email mission@mn.catholic.org.au

Catholic Men's Rosary Crusade

We are having a gathering of Catholic men for the Men's Rosary Crusade on Saturday 1 March from 11am at St Patrick's Church, Wallsend. We are more than a prayer group; we are here to help men struggling with faith or other issues. Contact Jason for more information on 0499 854 928.

CELEBRATE THE WORD OF GOD WITH A NEW BIBLE



The Parish Office has a range of New Community Bibles and Missals available to purchase. The New Community Bible (NCB) published by St Pauls Publications is the revised edition of the popular Christian Community Bible translated by Late Bernardo Hurault, a French Priest and biblical scholar, from original languages to Spanish in 1971. Since then it has been translated into many languages and millions of copies have been distributed.

1. The New Community Bible (Red Hardcover) \$35
2. The New Community Bible (White Softcover) \$45
3. The New Community Bible: New Testament (small blue) \$8.00
4. St Pauls Sunday Missal Popular Edition (hardcover) \$35
5. St Pauls Weekday Missal Popular Edition (hardcover) \$70
6. God's Word Reflection Books - \$15



THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE (MST)

The Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) was formally inaugurated on 22 February 1968 in Bharananganam, (Place of St. Alphonsa) Kerala, India. It was founded by the late Bishop Sebastian Vayalil Bishop Pala diocese. Today there are 394 priests, serving mainly in Northern India where there are less Christians. Mission ad gentes (a decree from the Second Vatican Council that outlines the Catholic Church's mission to evangelize the world) or Primary Proclamation to the Peoples is the primary objective of MST. At the invitation of Bishops, MST missionaries serve in different dioceses in different countries where there is shortage of priests. 10 priests are currently serving in various dioceses of Australia. MST missionaries have been serving in the Singleton and Braxton parishes since 2012.

Apostolates of MST include pastoral care, education, 28 schools, care and education of children and adults with a disability, 12 special schools/rehabilitation centres for the mentally challenged, community based rehabilitation of the disabled, 8 centres for the care and rehabilitation of the HIV/AIDS infected and affected people, 5 centres of vocational training, 34 social service centres providing non formal education, empowerment programmes for women etc and disaster management when there are floods or drought.

Charitable and social service programmes are supported by generous donations from benefactors and contributions from priests working overseas. No government funding is received.

MST has seminaries for all stages of formation. Minor seminary 3years, missionary orientation 1year, 3 years of philosophy and 4 years of theology. Seminary formation is run by the contribution from sponsors who sponsor a seminarian contributing to the expenses of his studies.

MST missionary associates are those who want to be a missionary by collaborating with MST by supporting the missionary work by prayer, contribution to the various apostolates, visiting mission areas and encouraging the missionaries or sponsoring seminarians etc.

Please pray for MST and its missionary priests and associates on 22 February, the foundation day of MST.