

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

9 March 2025

First Reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways. (R.)

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 10:8-13
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you

will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel Luke 4:1-13
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,
and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

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



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Jesus does not converse with the devil', observes Pope Francis.

The Pope points out that Jesus never seeks the devil's opinion, nor does he get into a dialogue with the devil. Jesus only gives firm answers, rebuffing the devil with Scripture, even when the devil tries to warp Scripture to his own ends.

Hoping that Lent can be 'a time of the desert' for each one of us, a time when we can find silence and make time for prayer, the Pope also warns us against falling into a 'slumber of the conscience'.

Silence and prayer must never become dialogue with the devil. If we start to think of ourselves as holier than others, excuse ourselves from helping the poor, or judge others whose lives appear different from our own, then perhaps we have started listening to the devil's opinion.

This Lent we might reflect on this temptation to self-justify, to dialogue with evil. 'The devil does this with us', the Pope suggests. Too easily the devil can, as the Pope puts it, 'disguise himself with sacred, apparently religious motives!'

Therefore, we might begin Lent by praying for the fortitude to answer our own inner temptations with firm resolve.

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael 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.</p> <p>Baptisms: Harvey McKenzie and Hazel Copeland (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Brian Sidler, Anna Croft (Fri 14 March Greta 1.30pm)</p> <p>Anniversaries: Clare Clark, Harold Thrift, Barry Goodwin, Jane Stocks, Ben Wyer, Patricia Lynch</p> <p>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.</p> <p><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></p>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Second Sunday of Lent Time, C 1st Read: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 2nd Read: Philippians 3:17-4:1 Gospel: Luke 9:28-36	
MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.	

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 Borg</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 16 MARCH 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	J Brackenrig
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	P Conroy S Stafa	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCAE LEADER REQ SCCC Staff	
Prayers		D Clarke	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	C Anderson L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk	A Humphreys	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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 10 March	Tuesday 11 March	Wednesday 12 March	Thursday 13 March	Friday 14 March	Saturday 15 March	Sunday 16 March 2 ND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
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 Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm SCAE 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.

Changes this Week

The Parish Office will be closed Friday 14 March.

2025 Parish Sacramental Program

Children in Year 3 and above in 2025 who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are invited to join the Parish Sacramental Program. **Names must be received by Wednesday 12 March to enrol in the program.**

Lenten Program Singleton

The Lenten Program will be held each week after the Wednesday Mass in St Patrick's Church. Booklets are available at the back of the church. More booklets are available by contacting the Parish Office.

Sacristan for Greta



SACRISTAN

St Catherine's Church in Greta is looking for a volunteer interested in the Ministry of Sacristan. Sacristans take responsibility for opening the church, turning on the lights and microphones, putting out the Missal and Lectionary and setting out items for Mass.

They also care for the sacred vessels, cloths, books, altar breads, wine, candles, incense, baptismal items, and furnishings. They ensure all the necessary items are available and in their proper place before and after each Mass and everything is clean and stored until the next time the items are needed. Please see Darryl at Mass if you are interested.

Senior Singles Group

The Singleton Senior Singles group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 11 March from 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. All welcome for join them for fellowship over a meal.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite you to join them for their monthly luncheon on Friday 21 March from 12pm in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September to 12 October 2025.

Scan the QR Code or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.



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.

Potential Cathedral Changes Being Considered

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is currently facing a space constraint in the temporary crypt located under the altar in St. John the Baptist Oratory. You are invited to attend a briefing and feedback session regarding the Bishops Crypt on 11 March at 10am or 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite at Newcastle West.

For more information please go to

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/>

Rite of Election Mass

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 within this Jubilee Year of Hope. It starts at 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to E.mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

Diaconal Ordination of Anton Perera

The Most Reverend Michael Kennedy and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle cordially invites the People of the Diocese to the Diaconal Ordination of Anton Perera by Most Reverend Michael Kennedy on Friday 4 April 2025 at 7pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. Refreshments will be served in the Victor Peters Suite following the liturgy.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibition

It is with great excitement that Bishop Michael Kennedy has organised an international exhibition of Blessed Carlo Acutis to visit our Diocese this week. It is set up in the Toohey and Dwyer Rooms at 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West and will remain there until 1pm Friday 7 March. The exhibition can accommodate groups of up to 20 people at a time and will be open from 9am - 5pm daily (except Friday). On Tuesday and Thursday, the exhibition will be open for an extended period until 8pm. Follow the link below to book for your group. Individuals can come at any time whilst the exhibition is open.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XEmSjxQ88R>

Meditation Retreat Morning

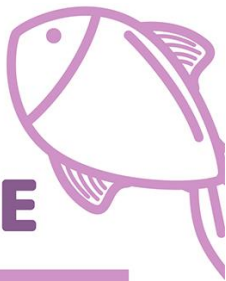
You are invited to come along to the Diocesan Resource Centre from 9.30am to 12pm on Saturday 29 March for a Meditation Retreat Morning. The cost is \$10, and morning tea will be provided. Email annecuskelly@hotmail.com for more information.

Art and Spirituality Days

Two Art and Spirituality Days will be hosted in 2025 on Friday 4 April and Friday 12 September at the Kilaben Bay Community Centre (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay). Participants will engage in art-making experiences that will nourish their faith. Cost: \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit uscbb.org.



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**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent
8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) from Samoa, Lam from Vietnam and Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



FAREWELL LYDIA & JOHN

Thank you to everyone who came along to farewell Lydia and John Gorczyca from the Branxton-Greta Parish.

Lydia has been the Sacristan at St Catherine's Greta for many years as well as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, collection counter each week and Coordinator of the Sacramental Program.

We wish them well for their move to the Morpeth Parish and thank them for their faithful ministry while they were in the Parish.



DIOCESAN JUBILEE LAUNCH

Last Sunday, parishioners from all over the Diocese joined together to launch the Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael leading the walk from Nobbys Beach to Sacred Heart Cathedral. After Mass, there were festivities and food to celebrate!

