



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

**Second Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**16 March 2025**

**First Reading Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18**  
A reading from the book of Genesis.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,  
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'  
The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1**

**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life  
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:  
'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,  
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help. **(R.)**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

**Second Reading Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
*Philippians*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Luke 9:28-36**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**FRANCIS' FOCUS**  
**REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

*Pope Francis draws our attention to Peter, James and John. Understandably weary, they were struggling against sleep and almost missed the Transfiguration entirely!*

*'The drowsiness of the three disciples appears to be a discordant note', the Pope muses. These three disciples later fall asleep at Gethsemane! 'This sleepiness in such important moments is surprising', the Pope remarks.*

*In this regard, the apostles can help us think about Lent. 'It is a period', the Pope suggests, 'in which God wants to awaken us from our inner lethargy, from this sleepiness that does not let the Spirit express itself.'*

*In their sleepiness these apostles make good role models for us. Despite their exhaustion, they remained open to the working of Grace. 'We might think', the Pope says, 'that it was the light of Jesus that reawakened them.'*

*'Like them, we too are in need of God's light,' the Pope affirms. And that light, he adds, 'makes us see things in a different way: it attracts us, it reawakens us, it reignites our desire and strength to pray, to look within ourselves, and to dedicate time to others.'*

*We might sometimes feel sleepy, in faith as in work, but we can still be witnesses to the Transfiguration if we are really open to the light of Christ.*

© Nick Brodie

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well  
pleased; listen to him.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
Third Sunday of Lent Time, C  
**1st Read:** Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15  
**2nd Read:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9

**MYSTERY OF FAITH**  
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and  
profess your Resurrection, until you  
come again.

## We remember in our prayers:

**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.**

**Baptisms:** Eva Ernst (Saturday) Auguste Newton, Darcy Newton and Penelope Lear (Sunday).  
**Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Recently Deceased:** Reginald Jones and Bernard Hughes (Tues 18 Mar Branxton 11am).

**Anniversaries:** Ann Boyd, Paul Dunn, Ernie MacDonell, Gregory McShane, Des O'Connor, Connie Ryan, Patricia and Ray Power, Robert Winter.

**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.**

## 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	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mr David Crawford</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: Mr Ashley Borg</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J Dries	J Dries	<b>G McMillan C Langford</b>
<b>Commentator</b>		L Harrison	G Cattermole	<b>SCAE LEADER REQ</b>	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
<b>Offertory</b>	S McAlister S Purdon	J Nightingale N Ernst	J Tindale E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	P Conroy	D Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	T Cochrane	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	

*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>17 March</b> <i>ST PATRICK</i>	<b>18 March</b> <i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	<b>19 March</b> <i>ST JOSEPH, BLESSED SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED MARY</i>	<b>20 March</b>	<b>21 March</b>	<b>22 March</b>	<b>23 March</b> <i>3rd SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C</i>
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>  <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> SCAE <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>5.30pm</u> <b>Sacramental Program Reconciliation</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <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 this Week**

The Parish Office will be OPEN Monday 17 March and CLOSED Wednesday 19 March.

## **Lent in Singleton Parish**

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. After Mass on Fridays, we will walk the stations of the cross.

## **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.

## **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](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au) and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.



## **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.

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Catherine's College Singleton**

2025 sees the 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Called and Gifted**

Mission & Evangelisation is working with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the Called & Gifted Discernment Process this year. This is a process aimed at helping people to discover and utilize charisms that God has gifted them with in order that they may more actively live out those charisms in the service of the Church. Please see the letter from James Camden on the noticeboard for further information.

## **Way of the Cross: A Pilgrimage of Hope**

This year's Way of the Cross will continue our pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities. Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you can gather from 2pm) at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283.

Enquiries: [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

Register: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hopetickets-1250877762059](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hopetickets-1250877762059)

## **Human Library Event**

On Friday 28 March at 10am the Diocesan Resource Centre at 12 Tudor St Newcastle West, will run their "Human Books" event which will discuss Pilgrimage, the good and bad, what they learned and how it made them feel. Showing images and answering questions, you will be immersed in Pilgrimage. Register using QR code or email: [domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au)



## **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](mailto: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>

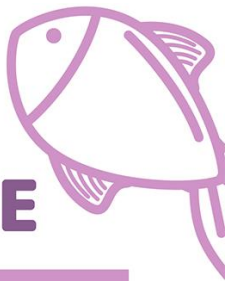
For further information contact Rose McAllister on [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)



God wants us to listen to Jesus. What are some things that Jesus tells us?



# 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 [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).



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**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
15th and 16th of March 2025

**Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

### PLEASE DONATE TODAY

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



# Lent, Holy Week and Easter Triduum 2025

**LENTEN REFLECTION**

SINGLETON AFTER MASS WEDNESDAYS

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

SINGLETON AFTER MASS FRIDAYS

## Thursday 17 April

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
6.00PM ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON  
6.00PM ST BRIGID'S BRANXTON

## Friday 18 April

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
10.00AM ST BRIGID'S BRANXTON  
11.00AM ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON  
**PASSION OF THE LORD**  
3.00PM ST CATHERINE'S GRETA  
3.00PM ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON

## Saturday 19 April

**HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL**  
6.00PM ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON  
6.00PM ST BRIGID'S BRANXTON

## Sunday 20 April

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
8.15AM ST CATHERINE'S GRETA  
10.00AM ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON

*Join Us to celebrate  
Our Saviour*

