

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

23 March 2025

First Reading **Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**
A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall. The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:17**

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel **Luke 13:1-9**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

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



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

In today's Gospel reading, Pope Francis explains, we see that 'Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God' for the world's misfortunes.

God does not send disasters to punish people. God is not vindictive, but ever merciful. And we are all called to respond to God's mercy, the Pope says, 'especially during this time of Lent.'

This includes learning how to stop blaming God. We should try to turn our attention to those times when, as the Pope puts it, it is 'our selfishness that tears apart relationships; ... our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil.' We are called to become the kind of people who can acknowledge our own faults.

'But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy,' the Pope adds, 'and he wants to help us here.' This is why Jesus 'encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God.'

The fig tree is an obvious symbol for each one of us. 'More time is given to it,' the Pope says, 'another possibility. I like to think', he adds, 'that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity.'

Such a chance is here, now. It is up to us to seize it.

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.	<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: Pearl Huggins (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Barbara Kowalski.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Michael Markham, Frank McAlister.</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>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Lent Time, C 1st Read: Joshua 5:9-12 2nd Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	
MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.	

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	Principal: Mr David Crawford	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Mr Ashley Borg	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 30 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 Woolley
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	D Clarke	SCAE LEADER REQ C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham Kevin M	
Prayers		K Ingold	C Spiteri	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	M Thomas A Thomas	C Anderson L Harrison	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	J Cowley C Becus	Kevin & Jonathon	
Extraordinary Minister	S Purdon	C Miller	M Alsleben	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 24 March	Tuesday 25 March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Wednesday 26 March	Thursday 27 March	Friday 28 March	Saturday 29 March	Sunday 30 March 4 th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am SCAE 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO 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 Monday 24 March and Tuesday 25 March.

There will be no Mass at Greta on Tuesday 25 March due to the funeral for Barbara Kowalski at 9.20am and no Mass at Singleton on Wednesday 26 March as Fr Thomas will be at the Clergy Reflection Day,

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hopetickets-1250877762059

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time

With the end of Daylight Savings on 6 April, Singleton Parish evening Masses will change to **5pm** from **Tuesday 8 April 2025**. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening and Glendonbrook masses.

Branxton Vigil Mass will remain at 6pm.



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

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.



Caritas Project Compassion – Third Sunday of Lent

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. 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 or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



About The Nicene Creed

The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the formulation of the Nicene Creed in the first ecumenical council in history, convened by the Emperor Constantine in Nicaea. (The modern Turkish city of İznik (whose name derives from Nicaea) is where the ancient city of Nicaea was located.)

Let us have look at the difference between the apostle's creed which we usually use and the Nicene creed which we will be using from today

Though they share many similarities, they have distinct historical origins, theological emphases, and purposes within Christian worship. Understanding their differences requires a look into the historical contexts in which they emerged and the theological issues they sought to address.

The Apostles' Creed is the older of the two and has its roots in the early Christian Church. Tradition attributes it to the apostles themselves, though there is no historical evidence that they wrote it. Instead, it developed gradually as a baptismal confession of faith in the Western Church. The earliest forms date back to the second century, with its final Latin version emerging in the eighth century. The creed was primarily used in Rome and became a foundational statement of belief for new converts to Christianity. Its structure is simple, outlining faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, while also affirming belief in the Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life.

In contrast, the Nicene Creed was formulated in response to theological disputes within the Church, particularly the rise of Arianism, which denied the full divinity of Christ. In 325 AD, Emperor Constantine convened the First Council of Nicaea, where bishops from across the Christian world gathered to settle these doctrinal controversies. The resulting Nicene Creed explicitly affirmed that Jesus Christ is "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God," making it clear that He is of the same essence as the Father. The creed was further expanded at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD to include a more detailed statement about the Holy Spirit. Unlike the Apostles' Creed, which was used primarily in the Western Church, the Nicene Creed was adopted by both Eastern and Western Christianity and remains a central part of liturgical worship, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Theologically, the Apostles' Creed serves as a simple declaration of faith, often used in personal devotion, baptismal rites, and catechism. It presents fundamental Christian beliefs in a concise manner. The Nicene Creed, however, is more precise and theologically detailed, particularly in its articulation of the Trinity and the divine nature of Christ. It was crafted not only as a profession of faith but also as a defence against heretical teachings that threatened to divide the Church.

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including
'and became man', all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.