

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**30 March 2025**

**First Reading Joshua 5:9-12**  
*A reading from the book of Joshua.*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'  
The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

**Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**  
*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.



**Gospel Acclamation Luke 15:18**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:**  
**Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.**  
**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Luke 15:1-3. 11-32**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick!

Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

*Pope Francis says that today's Gospel parable 'leads us to the heart of God'.*

*On the one hand, it shows us that 'God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness.' What the prodigal son's Father shows us is God's boundless mercy.*

*But on the other hand, the parable also shows how easily we humans can slip into what the Pope calls 'the indignation of the elder son'. If we do not see God as our merciful Father, then we can easily fall into 'living a distant religion, made of prohibitions and duties.' When we judge and exclude, we try to limit God's mercy.*

*Falling into that mindset, we lose sight of our relatedness. We can become like the resentful elder son who calls his own brother 'this son of yours'.*

*To combat this mindset of 'rigidity towards our neighbour' the Pope suggests that, like the Father, we 'make merry and rejoice'. We should try to 'demonstrate our closeness to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away ... we have to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead.'*

*In our lives, we should always treat others without judgment. And in our churches, we should always warmly welcome them home.*

© Nick Brodie

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. <p><b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>  You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.</p>	<p><b>We remember in our prayers:</b></p> <p><b>Sick:</b> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Liz Matt, Dulcie Maynard, Ross Marrone, Cristalina Mendonça, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Allan Seque, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b></p> <p><b>Recently Deceased:</b> Charles Ward (1/4 11am Branxton), Joyce Lusty (3/4 11am Greta)</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Arlene Thomas, Sr Mary Markham.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent Time, C <b>1st Read:</b> Isaiah 43:16-21 <b>2nd Read:</b> Philippians 3:8-14 <b>Gospel:</b> John 8:1-11	
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<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>
Parish Secretary	<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>
Facebook	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>			
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	
<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>			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<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>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<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 6 APRIL 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	P Conroy M Thomas	L Harrison	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane B Bailey	P Goodwin Kevin M A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	P Boyd	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	J & K Zaragoza	D Clarke J Clarke	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Kevin & Jonathon	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	C Trunk	D Clarke	M Alsleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	A Borg	

*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 31 March	Tuesday 1 April	Wednesday 2 April <i>St Francis of Paola</i>	Thursday 3 April	Friday 4 April <i>St Isidore</i>	Saturday 5 April <i>St Vincent Ferrer</i>	Sunday 6 April <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE OPEN 9-1	OFFICE CLOSED	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  5.30pm Reconciliation Practice	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass Adoration and Benediction Stations of the Cross St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS St Catherine's Greta		NO 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](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 9am-1pm on Monday 31 March and CLOSED Tuesday 1 April and Friday 4 April.

There will be no Mass at Greta on Tuesday 1 April due to the Parish Viability Meeting in Muswellbrook and no Mass at Branxton and Singleton on Thursday 3 April as Fr Thomas will be away.

## **Sacristan for Greta**



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.

## **Feast Light**

### What is Feast Light?

Feast Light is a small group of people gathering together to foster a sense of community, allowing people to know each other better and providing a space for prayer and spiritual growth.

You are invited to join the Feast Light at a **Lenten Recollection** on Saturday 5 April 2025 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Singleton in the Chancel. The topic for the day will be 'Let Us Journey Together in HOPE' with guest speaker Fr. Christogonus Okoro from Glendale. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided.

For catering purposes, please write your name in the form posted at the back of the church.

## **Reconciliation for Lent**

Those who wish to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** can come at 3pm on Saturday 5 April. Those can't make it that day, are welcome to join the liturgy on Wednesday 9 April at 6pm.

## **Singleton Parish Sacramental Program**

Children of the Singleton Parish Sacramental Program will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 9 April at 6pm** in St Patrick's Church. To prepare them they will need to attend a practice on Wednesday 2 April at 5.30pm. The Parish community is invited to join them and welcome to receive the sacrament at this time for Lent.

## **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.**



## **St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass**

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 5 April 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for *Ailene Milson*, and all those whose anniversaries occur in April.

We also welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday

## **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.

## **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.

## **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)



## **Lent 2025 Online Mission Event**

Experience spiritual renewal this Lent through an inspiring online Mission Event with Bruce Downes with people from all around the world. Online and easy to access, this powerful resource is perfect for individuals, families, and parish groups. Starts April 5, 2025. Registration required. Register now at: <https://missionevent.thecatholicguy.com/>

## **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.







**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
29th and 30th of March 2025

**Irene** lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became even more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family.

Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills. Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.

*"Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves,"* Irene said.

Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

**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](https://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*



## JUBILEE YEAR – PILGRIM'S PASSPORTS

The following Churches have been designated as sites of pilgrimage:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's, East Maitland
- St Joseph's, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong

Collect your Pilgrim's Passport from the back of the church, leaving your details on the collection sheet. Dates to visit will be released soon. Use the QR code to keep up to date.