

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**6 April 2025**

**First Reading**      **Isaiah 43:16-21**  
*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done  
before.

See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see  
it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the  
wilderness

(rivers in the wild)

to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 125. R. v.3**

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**      **Philippians 3:8-14**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians*

I believe nothing can happen that will  
outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing  
Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted  
the loss of everything, and I look on  
everything as so much rubbish if only I can  
have Christ and be given a place in him. I am

no longer trying for perfection by my own  
efforts, the perfection that comes from the  
Law, but I want only the perfection that  
comes through faith in Christ, and is from  
God and based on faith. All I want is to know  
Christ and the power of his resurrection and  
to share his sufferings by reproducing the  
pattern of his death. That is the way I can  
hope to take my place in the resurrection of  
the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet:  
I have not yet won, but I am still running,  
trying to capture the prize for which Christ  
Jesus captured me. I can assure you my  
brothers, I am far from thinking that I have  
already won. All I can say is that I forget the  
past and I strain ahead for what is still to  
come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize  
to which God calls us upwards to receive in  
Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Joel 2:12-13**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!**

**Gospel**      **John 8:1-11**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At  
daybreak he appeared in the Temple again;  
and as all the people came to him, he sat  
down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman  
along who had been caught committing  
adultery; and making her stand there in full  
view of everybody, they said to Jesus,  
'Master, this woman was caught in the very  
act of committing adultery, and Moses has  
ordered us in the Law to condemn women  
like this to death by stoning. What have you  
to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking  
for something to use against him. But Jesus  
bent down and started writing on the ground  
with his finger. As they persisted with their  
question, he looked up and said, 'If there is  
one of you who has not sinned, let him be the  
first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent  
down and wrote on the ground again. When  
they heard this they went away one by one,  
beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left  
alone with the woman, who remained  
standing there. He looked up and said,  
'Woman, where are they? Has no one  
condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied.  
'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go  
away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



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

*The story told in today's Gospel, Pope Francis  
says, shows us 'two contrasting attitudes'.  
One seeks condemnation, the other  
salvation.*

*Surrounding this distasteful episode is an  
unhealthy inclination to condemn. Yes, the  
accusers obviously want to punish the  
woman. But besides judging this woman, her  
accusers are also using her. Their real target  
is Jesus. He is the one they are testing.*

*As the Pope says, these accusatory people  
are 'confined to narrow legalism and want to  
oblige the Son of God to conform to their  
perspective of judgment and condemnation.'*

*But Jesus saves the woman. As the Pope  
puts it, Jesus 'redeems by forgiving and  
renews by reconciling.' With silence and a  
pointed question, he turns the event upside  
down! This was surely not what the Scribes  
and Pharisees anticipated.*

*Moreover, as the Pope points out, Jesus  
shows us something very important. 'Jesus is  
the only one without fault, the only one who  
could throw a stone at her, but he does not  
do so.'*

*Reflecting on this, we might try to let go of  
those stones in our hearts that we long to  
fling at others.*

*Each Lent we are 'called to recognise  
ourselves as sinners and to ask God for  
forgiveness,' the Pope affirms. But he  
reminds us that, like Jesus, we are also  
called to become forgivers.*

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|---|--|
| <b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b><br>Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.<br><b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b><br>Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more. | <b>We remember in our prayers:</b><br><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><br><b>Baptisms:</b> George and Angus Boyd, Ivey and Ryx Allsop (Branxton). Florence Sykes (Singleton). <b>Called by name to be a child of God.</b><br><b>Recently Deceased:</b> Kevin Tope.<br><b>Anniversaries:</b> Maureen Bridge.<br><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> |
| <b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b><br>Palm Sunday, Time, C<br><b>1st Read:</b> Isaiah 50:4-7<br><b>2nd Read:</b> Philippians 2:6-11<br><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 22:14-23:56   |  |
| <b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b><br><i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i>  |  |

| 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)<br>Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a><br>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><br>Contact via the Parish Office                     | Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol<br>Branxton Parish: Allan Humphreys   |
| <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 13 APRIL 2025 |                          |                          |                          |                          |                                     |                            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                    | Branxton<br>Saturday 6pm | Greta<br>Sunday 8am      | Singleton<br>Sunday 7am  | Singleton<br>Sunday 10am | Singleton<br>Sunday 5pm             | Counters<br>9.30am Tuesday |
| <b>Welcomer</b>                    | E Bendeich               | D & J Clarke             | C Langford               | J Dries                  | J Dries                             | J Brackenrig               |
| <b>Commentator</b>                 |                          | L Harrison               | G Cattermole             | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>  | E Janssen                           |                            |
| <b>Readers</b>                     | S Purdon<br>C Trunk      | A Humphreys              | J Duldulao<br>H Duldulao | M Stowe<br>R James       | T Janssen<br>H Janssen<br>N Janssen |                            |
| <b>Prayers</b>                     |                          | L Harrison               | C Langford               | F King                   | E Janssen                           |                            |
| <b>Offertory</b>                   | J & S Stafa              | J Nightingale<br>N Ernst | M George<br>J Dunn       | J Cowley<br>C Becus      | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>             |                            |
| <b>Extraordinary Minister</b>      | P Conroy                 | L Harrison               | J Dunn                   | M Stowe                  | <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                             |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday  | Tuesday                                     | Wednesday   | Thursday                                    | Friday  | Saturday  | Sunday  |
| 7 April<br><i>St John Baptist de la Salle</i> | 8 April                                     | 9 April   | 10 April                                    | 11 April<br><i>St Stanislaus</i>  | 12 April  | 13 April<br><i>PALM SUNDAY, YEAR C</i>                                  |
| OFFICE CLOSED                                 | OFFICE OPEN                                 | OFFICE OPEN   | OFFICE OPEN                                 | OFFICE OPEN   |   |   |
| 8.00am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton   | 5.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><br>6.00pm<br>Sacramental<br>Program<br>Reconciliation | 5.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><br>11.00am<br>Mass<br>Elizabeth Gates | 9.00am Novena<br>9.20am Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | 7.00am Mass<br>10.00am Mass<br>5.00pm Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton |
|   | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>Greta   |   | NO MASS<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton          |   | 6.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton                 | 7.35am Rosary<br>8.15am Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>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.

## **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. The Parish community is invited to join them and welcome to receive the sacrament at this time.

## **Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time**

With the end of Daylight Savings this weekend, 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.**



## **Rosters for Holy Week and Easter**

Rosters are on the noticeboard in St Patrick's Singleton if you would like to assist at Mass during Holy Week and Easter.

## **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 this 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-hope/tickets-1250877762059](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope/tickets-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/>

## **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.

## **Chrism Mass**

One of the most significant events on the Liturgical Calendar held during Holy Week. Join Bishop Michael Kennedy, the Clergy, and all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle to gather for the annual Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral **7pm Tuesday 15 April 2025**, where the three Sacred Oils used in the ministry of various sacraments throughout the year from Easter to Easter are blessed and consecrated.

## **Launch of New Website**

Over the past nine months, the Diocesan Communications team has been working closely with the Bishop's Office and the Mission & Evangelisation Team to develop a fresh new website, that will be bright, colourful and interactive allowing people to engage with the Church and the broader Diocesan community. The website was launched on Monday 31 March. We encourage you to check it out and if you have any feedback, please let the parish office know and it will be forwarded. The updated Events page is one for you to keep an eye on, with all the events around the Diocese being listed <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

As part of the new update the Mass App will be discontinued as the Diocese website is now the place to find what you need about Mass times and events. Anyone who uses the Mass App to make payments are advised that this will cease in June 2025.

## **CathEvents.org.au**

Looking to grow in your faith and become closer to God? More than one hundred opportunities to participate in prayer gatherings, formation days, parish renewal training, caminos, retreats and more are now available on Australia's Catholic events hub, [CathEvents](http://CathEvents.org.au). Find online and in-person events to help connect with God and your fellow Catholics!

## **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.



## **Register for the Called and Gifted Program**

Mission & Evangelisation is working with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the Called & Gifted Discernment Process this year. This will be a significant investment in the people of our Diocese as we grow our confidence in living and sharing our faith with others. This is a unique opportunity to journey together as a Diocese and will begin following Pentecost.

Discerning charisms communally enables parishes to thrive on the gifts of its people. Far from being "just another program", this is a whole new way to look at our parishes. When charisms are discerned and understood, community members feel empowered, valued and develop a sense of belonging.

It is critical that participants are aware of, and fully commit to, the three-part process that involves workshops, a personal interview and in-depth sessions about using our gifts in the world.

The Called & Gifted Discernment Process has been incredibly successful in a number of Catholic Diocese across Australia. The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry will release a national statement on charisms in coming months re-enforcing our Diocesan commitment to mission and evangelisation into the future.

Registration will close **May 9** via this link <https://forms.office.com/r/1J9Q2eqVft>

For more information, please contact our Mission & Evangelisation Partner – Formation, Rose McAllister: [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

# 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*



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.

### 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*.

**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**  
this Lent



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission

**It is your right to live  
free from elder abuse**

**I am treated with respect  
by family and friends**

**I know how my money  
is being spent**

**I choose what happens  
in my home**

**Decisions about my life  
are in my best interest**

**My will reflects my  
own wishes**

**I know where my  
medication is**

**If you answered 'no' to  
any of these statements,  
you may wish to talk to  
someone you can trust.**

**1800 ELDERHelp  
(1800 353 374)**



Sometimes an older person is harmed by someone they trust, like a family member or friend.

In Australia, we call this **elder abuse**.

Elder abuse can happen in many different ways, like physical harm, financial abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

If you need information about elder abuse or help and support for yourself, a family member, friend or an older person, call the National Elder Abuse phone line

**1800 ELDERHelp  
(1800 353 374)**

Calls are **free and confidential**

They will arrange a free interpreter

In an emergency, contact 000

A collaboration between the Australian, state and territory governments