

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Good Shepherd Sunday

11 May 2025

First Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends
of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

**(R.) We are his people,
the sheep of his flock.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.
(R.)

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Revelation 7:9, 14-17
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

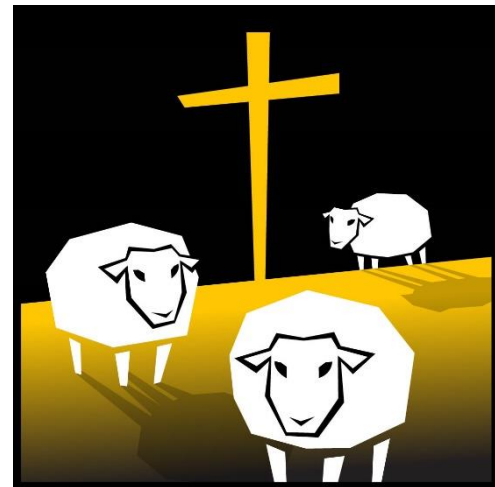
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:27-30
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

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



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Sometimes Jesus calls us, he invites us to follow him, but perhaps we do not realise that it is he who is calling,' Pope Francis once said.

Francis explained that these few lines in today's Gospel passage 'contain the whole of Jesus' message ... he calls us to share in his relationship with the Father.' Indeed, he continued, 'Jesus wants to establish with his friends a relationship which mirrors his own relationship with the Father: a relationship of reciprocal belonging.'

Such listening and reciprocity is at the heart of the late Pope's call for the Church to become more synodal. 'Synodality', Francis explains, means journeying together. It is, therefore, really 'an expression of the Church's nature, her form, style and mission.' We journey to the Father, with Christ, in the Holy Spirit.

As Francis put it at one point: 'we are sheep, yet we are also members of the flock.'

We must rediscover, he declared, 'that we are a people meant to walk together, with one another and with all humanity.' We must learn 'to trust that the Spirit will always make his voice heard.' And a good place to start discerning God's voice, he suggested, is 'by listening to each other.'

© Nick Brodie.

<p>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.</p> <p>COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.</p>	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, José Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Ron Hebbe</p> <p>Anniversaries: Mollie Bailey, Frederick Dagg, Ivy Goodwin, Win Nowland, Patrick Slattery, Boleslaw Szumilas, Victoria Szumilas, Geoffrey Tope, Ian Tope, Margaret Trunk.</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>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C 1st Reading: Acts 14:21-27 2nd Reading: Revelation 21:1-5 Gospel: John 13:31-35</p>	
<p>MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i></p>	

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: Allan Humphreys
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 18 MAY 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	K Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	St Catherine's Staff	
Prayers		D Clarke	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	St Catherine's Staff	
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	C Anderson N Ernst	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	St Catherine's Staff	
Extraordinary Minister	P Conroy	K Ingold	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 12 May <i>St Nereus & Achilleus St Pancras</i>	Tuesday 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	Wednesday 14 May <i>ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</i>	Thursday 15 May	Friday 16 May	Saturday 17 May	Sunday 18 May <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am SCAE 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.

Parish Changes this Week

Fr Thomas will be taking leave from 30 April and returning on 1 July. We wish him a safe and restful time away.

Mass will not be said at Greta on Tuesday 13 May.

Planned Giving Tax Receipt Request

Envelope and direct debit donors: Please pick up the envelope addressed to you at the back of the church and complete the form inside, returning by 31 May 2025. This form asks about your tax receipt needs for 2024/25 and your preferred donation method (envelope or direct debit) for 2025/26. If you're not currently part of our planned giving program but would like to be in 2025/26, please reach out to the parish office.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon – Change of Date

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet for their monthly luncheon from 12 noon on Friday 16 May at Miller Park Hotel. All are welcome.

Senior Singles Group

The Singleton Senior Singles group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 13 May from 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. All welcome for join them for fellowship over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

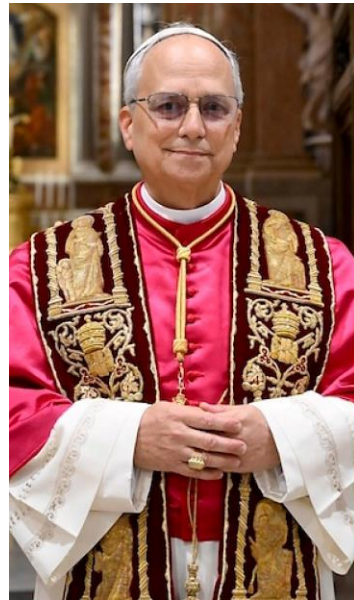
The Women's Guild next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 1.30pm in the home Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

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. They are particularly looking for yearbooks from 1978-80, 1982-85, 1998-99, 2002, 2004 and 2015-2024.

All items will be returned after the exhibition. Please drop any items to the Parish Office during office hours, clearly labelled with your name and contact details.



Welcoming

Pope Leo XIV

"We look forward with confidence to his leadership and the ways in which he will be witness to the Gospel in today's world."

Bishop Michael Kennedy, Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Church Cleaners Needed

Can you help with cleaning St Patrick's Church Singleton by joining the roster at least once a month? Please call the Parish Office if you can volunteer in this important ministry!

Diocesan Local Churches Pilgrimage

Our Jubilee Year is now well underway, and eight Local sites of Pilgrimage are open and ready for you. Pick up a passport up at any church along the way. Visit one or visit them all. Collect your stamp, and on each page, re-affirm the spiritual journey you've committed to this Jubilee Year. An indulgence is on offer with prayer, Eucharist and acts of mercy. We have a very special long weekend planned for you. If the idea of visiting all eight Local sites of Pilgrimage in the Diocese is a little daunting. Mission & Evangelisation has done all the hard work for you. In just a few weeks on Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May, we will journey with you over three days as each Church hosts mass, prayer, confession and good old-fashioned hospitality. This will be a chance to get your entire passport complete and meet countless new people along the way. Check out the Itinerary at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/diocesan-local-churches-pilgrimage/>

Celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed

Mission & Evangelisation invites you to this premium formation offering with Associate Professor Joel Hodge, National Head, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University. Choose from one of two sessions at 3:30pm or 6:00pm on Friday 23 May 2025 as he immerses us in the history and theology of the Nicene Creed. This 'deep-dive' into 'what we believe' is not to be missed as we celebrate its 1700 years. This free event, over 2hrs, face to face, will become part of an ongoing formation series hosted at St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland in 2025. Register now via the Diocesan events page <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

55 Years of Cursillo in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese

Cursillo is a movement that focuses on helping each person discover themselves and their relationship with Christ and with others. All are welcome to join us for Mass with Bishop Michael at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West on 18 May 2025 at 9.30am. Share morning tea with Cursillistas after Mass. RSVP: Claire McWilliam 0413 044 382 or cursillomovement@mn.catholic.org.au

Do you LOVE Retail??



There is an urgent need for extra volunteers in Singleton to give 1-2 days per week at the Vinnies Retail Shop.

Vinnies has been part of our local community for more than 50 years and continues to help individuals and families in need.

Volunteer work can provide renewed energy, motivation and a real sense of purpose by giving something back to others and the community. For some, it offers the chance to get out of the house and discover new experiences, while for others it's an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of those around them. There are so many great benefits to being a volunteer when you find a cause that's right for you!

Contact the shop in Macquarie Street, Singleton or the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator on phone 4967 6277 or email maitland.newcastle@vinnies.org.au

Please share this post on your own timelines to help our local Vinnies support our local community in need!

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT



Calling all young adults in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to the Young Adults Retreat 2025! A dynamic annual event designed for young people by young people! Join us for a weekend to meet young people from all around the diocese, and experience Catholic community, worship, inputs by expert speakers, the Sacraments, and an opportunity to encounter Christ's personal love!

- ✦ **WHO:** 18-35; children of participants also welcome
- ✦ **WHEN:** 27-29 June 2025; 6pm dinner on the 27th - 12:30pm on Sun 29 June
- ✦ **WHERE:** Catalina Lakefront Retreat, Rathmines NSW
- ✦ **COST:** \$170 per person, incl. of food & accommodation; \$110 without accommodation; \$80 for Saturday only. Sponsorship available for financial hardship. Please reach out to mission@mn.catholic.org.au for assistance.
- ✦ **REGISTER:** <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/young-adult-retreat-2025/>

†
Her children
rise up AND call
her
BLESSED

PROVERBS 31:28

She
is clothed
with
Strength
AND
Dignity

PROVERBS 31:25

She
OPENS HER MOUTH
with
WISDOM
†

PROVERBS 31:26

Happy Mother's Day to All Mothers, to those who have lost their Mothers, to those waiting to be Mothers, to the Stepmothers, Adoptive Mothers, Foster Mothers, Mothers-in-Law, Grandmothers, Aunts and Sisters. Thank you for all that you do!