

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

18 May 2025

First Reading

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign.
(R.)

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Jn 13:31-35

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,

I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:

love one another;

just as I have loved you,

you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my
disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

'Jesus loved us first', Pope Francis reminded us. This is the key to the newness of Jesus' commandment.

As Francis pointed out, it was already an established principle that you should love your neighbour. What Jesus does is extend this, going beyond formal concern to a really deep love – 'as I have loved you'.

Jesus' love, Francis elaborates, 'is God's universal love, without any conditions or limits.'

Which is why it is important to start by knowing that Jesus already loves us, irrespective of who we are or what we have done. He loves us, Francis explains, 'despite our frailties, our limitations and our human weaknesses.'

In fact, as Francis adds, it was Jesus himself 'who ensured we become worthy of his boundless and never-ending love.' There is nothing we can do to make him love us more or less than he already does. God's love, by definition, is boundless.

So, aided by the Holy Spirit, we are called to experience and express the love of Christ. As the late Pope said, if we are truly open to this, then 'we can spread everywhere the seed of love that renews relationships between people and opens horizons of hope.'

© Nick Brodie.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, 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: Alora and Connor O'Reilly (Branxton). Laura and Sophie Knight and Oaklee Smith. Called by name to be a child of God. Anniversaries: Lorraine Edwards, Jimmy McAleer, Nell Meyn. 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
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i>	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C 1st Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 2nd Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 Gospel: John 14:23-29	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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)			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College		<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School		<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 25 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	G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	J Nightingale J Wilton	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	S Purdon	C Miller	J Dunn	T Cochrane	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 19 May	Tuesday 20 May <i>St Bernardine of Siena</i>	Wednesday 21 May <i>St Christopher Magallanes & Com</i>	Thursday 22 May <i>St Rita of Cascia</i>	Friday 23 May	Saturday 24 May <i>OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PATRON OF AUSTRALIA</i>	Sunday 25 May <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C Laudato Si' Week</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
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 5.00pm SCAE Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00m SCAE 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am 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.

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.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 23 May. Please have all items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by Wednesday 21 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.

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.



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!

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

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/>

Young Adult Retreat – Engage, Encounter, Worship

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/>

Vinnies Need Volunteers!

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

LGBTIQ Catholic Forum Lunch

We will come together on Sunday 25 May 2025 at 12.00pm in a member's home with food supplied and everyone bringing their favourite beverage. The Forum is a gathering of LGBTIQ Catholics, their families, friends, and supporters within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Forum promotes the dignity of each person and supports them in their development to be the person God calls them to be. Future gatherings are planned for: 27 July; 28 September and 23rd November 2025.

For more information, please contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Cursillo Retreat

The annual Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 2025 Cursillo Retreat weekend will be held from Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 June at Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Road, Rathmines, with the theme "Called to Be". The Retreat is a short course in Christianity that will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values, and is Sacramental. If you are interested in joining the Cursillo Movement, enrolling for the Retreat weekend, or just wishing to learn more about Cursillo, please feel free to contact: Greg Standing 0412 252 218 or Jane Scott 0438 009 611.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

@f/ACYF25 ACYF.ORG.AU

Year 9 –
25 years
plus leaders



MELBOURNE, VICTORIA • 30 NOV – 2 DEC 2025

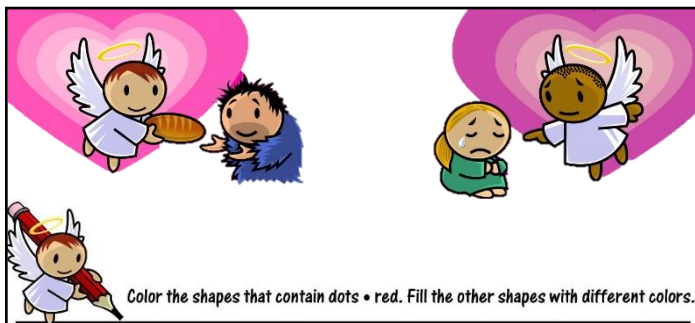
Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago. Run over three days, the Festival provides young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

The Festival will bring together thousands of young people (Year 9 – 25 years of age) from all across Australia and include opportunities for engagement with other young people, school and youth groups, Bishops, musicians and speakers.

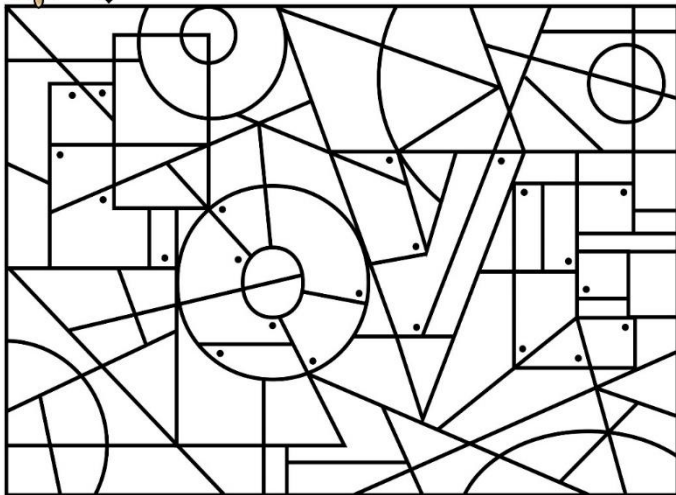
Each day will include the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo.

Group registration for the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese has opened. Contact the Mission & Evangelisation Partner, Dominic Drumore at mission@mn.catholic.org.au for more information and registration.

Keep up to date via the ACYF website: <https://acyf.org.au/>



Color the shapes that contain dots • red. Fill the other shapes with different colors.



Jesus tells us to love each other as he loves us. Draw some people whom you love.



A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

AND HIS INSTALLATION AS BISHOP OF ROME

Gracious and loving God,

we thank you for the blessing of Pope Leo XIV,
chosen to shepherd your Church in these times.
Guide him as he walks in the footsteps of St. Peter,
that he may lead with humility, wisdom, and strength.

You have called him to a sacred task—

To shepherd your people ,
to serve with tenderness and compassion,
and to proclaim the Gospel boldly and with joy.

Guide him as he builds your Church
into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world,
by governing with fidelity,
those entrusted to his care.

Strengthen him with grace and courage,
right judgement, knowledge, and truth,
inspired by your Holy Spirit,
and by the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
and the prayers of all the saints.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

