

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C

25 May 2025

First Reading Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:23-29

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Reflecting on Jesus' gift of peace, so eloquently expressed in today's Gospel passage, Pope Francis encouraged us to think about the context. This beautiful message is given in what Francis characterises as 'a moment that is anything but serene. Judas has left to betray him, Peter is about to deny him, and almost everyone else to abandon him.'

What Jesus shows us in that moment is that 'he remains kind until the end.'

'Jesus demonstrates that meekness is possible', Francis says, by revealing his own peacefulness 'precisely in the most difficult moment'. Through this, Francis suggests, Jesus 'wants us to behave that way too, since we are the heirs of his peace.'

We are called to be 'witnesses of peace.'

Understanding that 'this meekness is not easy', Francis intimated that this is where Jesus' gifting of his peace to us is so important. As he explains, 'Jesus knows that on our own we are not able to keep peace, that we need help, that we need a gift.'

This gift, Francis says, is 'the presence of God in us' – the Holy Spirit – helping us 'to forgive, to begin again, to set out anew because we cannot do this with our own strength.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>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, Keith Stocks, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Austin Millar (Singleton), Noah Thomas, Levi & Calvin Barry (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Margaret Dagg, Michael Halter.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Reverend Patrick Murphy, Lyn Karpriel, Russell Rapp, Rita Gresham.</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 The Ascension of the Lord, Year C 1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 Gospel: Luke 24:46-53	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i>	

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 1 JUNE 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 Woolley
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane B Bailey	P Goodwin Kevin M A Borg	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	D Clarke J Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Kevin M Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk	D Clarke	M Alsleben	T Cochrane	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26 May <i>St Philip Neri</i>	27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	28 May	29 May <i>St Paul VI</i>	30 May	31 May <i>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	1 June <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta				<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

Fr John will be attending the Clergy Conference on 28-29 May so there won't be Mass said those days.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 30 May. Please have all items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by Wednesday 28 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? One of our cleaners is going away for a month so we urgently need assistance. Please call the Parish Office if you can volunteer in this important ministry!

Singleton Catholic Cemetery

Please be advised that the gates to the Singleton Catholic Cemetery on Queen Street will be kept closed if we have had significant rainfall.

This is to prevent parts of the cemetery being damaged by vehicles parking and turning around. Once these are damaged by vehicles (particularly the section at the back of the lawn cemetery) it makes it difficult and dangerous for our volunteers to mow them.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to those visiting the cemetery. We have a pedestrian gate installed to the left of the double gates and it is always accessible. We understand that not all visitors are able to walk the distance to those they are paying tribute to, but we also need to keep our property, volunteers and equipment safe.

The gates will be open 9am-5pm whenever possible after the grounds have been inspected. With so much rain lately, once we get a little bit of rain the area becomes boggy quite quickly.

A permanent solution to cordoning off the areas of concern is being discussed by the Parish councils.

If you have any concerns, please email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

Vinnies Need Volunteers!



There is an urgent need for extra volunteers in Singleton to at the Vinnies Retail Shop. Contact the shop in Macquarie Street, Singleton or the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator on phone 4967 6277 or email maitland.newcastle@vinnies.org.au

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.

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.

Jubilee Art Exhibition

SPES NON CONFUNDIT. Hope Does Not Disappoint (Rom5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome’.

You are invited to join us on Saturday 31 May 2.00-4.00pm at the Veritas Centre, San Clemente Catholic College, 78 Havelock St Mayfield to view the entries of the Jubilee Art Exhibition. Artworks connect with the theme, ‘Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Rom 5:1-2.5)’.

Bishop Michael will reflect on this scripture and announce the winners of the three categories: Primary School, High School and Adult.

For more information <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/jubilee-art-exhibition/>

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

By Pope Francis, from the encyclical Laudato Si'

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen

We humans are all in relationship with God.

God is the Creator and we are creatures whom God creates. When we pray, we pay attention to that relationship, learn about it, grow in it, get reshaped and renewed by it.

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis implored and guided us to pay much more attention. We humans should pay attention to our relationships to each other and to all the rest of the created order as well as to God.

Following Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis begins his encyclical with gratitude for all of Creation. The very title is a prayer of praise sung by all Creation for the Creator.

Following science and conscience, Pope Francis begs us to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

Since June 2015, when Laudato Si' was published, millions of people have responded to his plea. People have acted in practical ways to improve our relationships with the earth and with each other. People have also prayed, in both traditional and new ways, for a healthier and more loving world called "our common home". Inspired by the invitation to practice an "ecological spirituality" (LS 216), people are developing new prayers of words and of deeds. Let's all pray.

This booklet shares many lovely prayers and prayer practices. You will find inspiration for how to express:

- exhilaration, awe and joy at the wonders of the nature world
- gratitude for all of nature's gifts that sustain us
- sorrow and shame at how we humans have mistreated the earth and each other and are continuing to do so
- commitment to heal the earth and our human relationships.

Let us pray.

When Jesus responded to the request "Lord, teach us to pray", his suggestion began with these two words: "Our Father". Our father, not my father – a father whom Jesus addressed as "Abba", Daddy or Papá, not as a remote deity.

Nowadays we recognize Mother, Father, Great Spirit and other ancient and new names for our loving Creator; and now, we understand, more profoundly and urgently than ever, that we are in this together. Our common humanity, not my needs and wishes alone; our connection with all of creation, not my use of this or that resource; Our Father and Our common home. We learn to pray. The prayers in this book emerge with caring love from the many levels of the Laudato Si' Movement. The prayers are in fruitful dialogue with Pope Francis's own beautiful contributions: "A prayer for our earth" and "A Christian prayer in union with creation" (p. 4, below), and in the encyclical they come after his own spiritual and mystical introduction (LS 238-46) to read and meditate again and over again.

Taken from the Foreword of the Laudato Si Movement Prayer Book written by Cardinal Michael Czerny S.J. Interim Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Find more at <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you! Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you! Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you! Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,

