

The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

1 June 2025

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:46-53

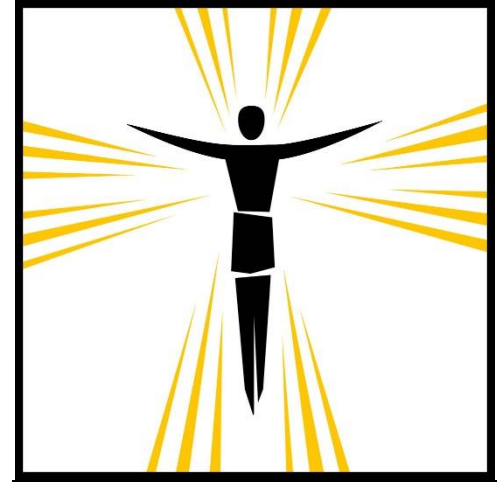
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

'Jesus is not abandoning the disciples', Pope Francis points out. 'He ascends to Heaven, but he does not leave them alone.'

Jesus' Ascension, Francis suggests, can be understood with respect to two aspects of the event. Firstly, Jesus 'announces the gift of the Spirit.' Then, secondly, Jesus 'blesses the disciples.'

In sending the Spirit, Jesus ensures that he remains present with his disciples in a new way. There is now, Francis explains, 'a presence that does not want to limit our freedom.' Jesus leaves room for us to make our own way, through time and space, accompanied by the Spirit. As Francis quips, it is the case that 'true love makes us protagonists.'

We are now 'his witnesses in the world', he reminds us. By blessing his followers, Jesus shows that he 'is the great priest of our life.' Ascending to the Father, he intercedes for us and goes 'to present our humanity to him.'

Francis therefore encourages us to reflect on how truly we embrace our call 'to be witnesses to the Gospel.' Are we 'capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them'? Do we intercede on their behalf 'and bless their lives'? Do we really trust that Jesus wants to work through us?

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, 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, José Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Dulcie Maynard, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Anne Standing, 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: Gabriel Mulholland (Singleton) Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Molly Crump.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Very Reverend Gerard Flatley, Jimmy Kennedy, Mary McAlister.</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 Pentecost, Year C 1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 Gospel: John 20:19-23	
MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.	

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 8 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	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		A Humphreys	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	C Miller Helena	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	P Conroy	L Harrison	J Dunn	M Stowe	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 June St Marcellinus & Peter	3 June St Charles Lwanga & companions	4 June	5 June St Boniface	6 June St Norbert St Marcellin Champagnat	7 June	8 June PENTECOST, YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<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> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<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 is not available on Wednesday 4 June to say Mass.

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 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

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 June 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for *Bev Janssen and Donald Lynch*, and all those whose anniversaries occur in June.

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. 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.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon

Bring a friend and join the St Brigid's Caritas group for lunch at 12pm on Friday 13 June at Miller Park Hotel. It's a great opportunity to come together as an ecumenical group in fellowship over a meal. This lunch is an open invitation to all Christians, regardless of their denomination, to strengthen our shared faith.



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!

Vinnies Need Volunteers!



Vinnies

good works

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.

Join the aMeN caMiNo 2025

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Mission & Evangelisation are offering two unique local aMeN caMiNo pilgrimage experiences. One over 2 days and the other over 5 days. To learn more, attend our physical Walk & Talk Information Session on Saturday, 14 June.



To register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XFXfcBJ927>

Find out more about the aMeN caMiNo via the website:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/amen-camino/>

CELEBRATES 150 years



SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST - FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

From humble beginnings founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1875 to a thriving K-12 college, St Catherine's Catholic College proudly honours a rich legacy of faith, learning, and community. Join us as we commemorate this incredible journey and look forward to a future grounded in tradition and inspired by excellence.

CELEBRATES 150 years

COMMEMORATIVE POLO



Celebrate 150 years of St Catherine's Catholic College and Mercy tradition with our exclusive 150 Year Polo priced at \$49.95

Orders must be placed via the link before 1st June 2025. Polos will be delivered to the school around 14th August 2025 for collection.

Please be mindful of sizes as orders cannot be returned or exchanged.

<https://www.reformclothing.com/au/order/11738203636>

Supporting ourselves and each other through ongoing Natural Disasters

As psychologists working in and with communities across the region, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the emotional impact of the recent extreme weather and flooding events.

For towns like Taree and other communities across the region, these floods aren't happening in isolation. Over the past five or more years, many people have experienced a roller coaster of natural disasters – bushfires, floods, and the ongoing ripple effects of those events. For some, this current flooding may bring up not just concern for present circumstances, but also vivid memories and emotional reactions tied to past traumas.

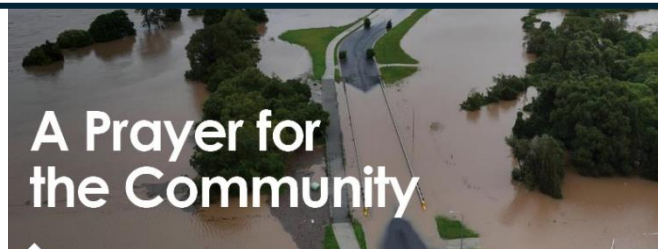
This layering of experiences can heighten our emotional responses – making us feel more anxious, overwhelmed, or even physically unsettled. These reactions are understandable and valid.

If you're finding it hard right now, you're not alone. Here are a few simple Psychological First Aid strategies to help ground yourself:

- **Acknowledge how you're feeling** – There's no "right" way to react. It's okay to feel upset, frustrated, or scared.
- **Connect with others** – Reaching out to friends, family, or neighbours can help ease the burden and remind us we're not alone.
- **Take small, manageable actions** – Doing something practical, even if small, like preparing a bag or checking on a neighbour, can give a sense of control.
- **Limit media exposure** – Stay informed but try not to overload yourself with constant updates or distressing images.
- **Use grounding techniques** – Focus on your breathing, the feel of your feet on the ground, or name five things you can see to bring yourself back to the present moment.

Remember, support is available. If you or someone you know is struggling, **support can be accessed via services at The Rosewood Centre in person or via telehealth.** Our team of psychologists is here to help you process what you're going through and support your mental wellbeing.

Please don't hesitate to reach out <https://rosewoodcentre.com.au/contact-us>



A Prayer for the Community

Our Diocese has been declared a natural disaster zone. We stand with you - in prayer and in practical support.

*God of comfort and strength,
we pray for all in our Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle affected by flooding.
For those whose homes are damaged, whose hearts are heavy, and
whose lives are disrupted.
Protect the vulnerable, strengthen those offering help, and stir in us a
spirit of compassion,
that we may be your hands and heart in this time of need.
Amen*



mn.catholic.org.au

**The
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Centre**
PSYCHOLOGY AND
ALLIED HEALTH