

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

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year C

22 June 2025

First Reading Genesis 14:18-20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: 'Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.' And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 109:1-4. R. v.4

(R.) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
'Sit on my right:

I will put your foes beneath your feet.' (R.)

The Lord will send from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes. (R.)

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the daybreak I begot you. (R.)

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.

'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.' (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 11:23-26

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence (see back page)

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Luke 9:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

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



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

The Church, Pope Leo XIV reminds us, is called to be 'a city set on a hill', as well as 'an ark of salvation sailing through the waters of history and a beacon that illumines the dark nights of this world.'

A city, an ark, a beacon. Three different images, but always one thing. We are called, as Jesus prayed at the Last Supper, to be one.

Because the unity of 'the entire mystical Body of the Church' is critical to who we are, our Eucharistic celebrations, therefore, must never become opportunities for exclusion. Our liturgies should always proclaim to the world the healing and all-inclusive power of Christ.

Indeed, as Leo suggests, the Church most authentically witnesses to Christ 'not so much through the magnificence of her structures or the grandeur of her buildings ... but rather through the holiness of her members.'

And holiness, properly understood, is a type of human wholeness. It is devout, but not dour. It is fulsome, not fanatical. True holiness, the Pope notes, reflects 'joyful faith in Jesus the Saviour.' We are called to be joyful because we are people of the Resurrection!

As such, joy should always infuse our sharing the good news. Joyous news, after all, is most attractive when it is joyfully shared.

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Dulcie Maynard, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Marianne Reynolds, Anne Standing, Allan Seque, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Marion Turnbull, Clare Bendeich (Funeral Mass, Tues 24/6, 11am Singleton). Anniversaries: Olga Roberts, Carl Thomas, Joseph Maria. 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. Baptisms: Lennox Hammond (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, Year C 1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19	
MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup. we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

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 29 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	24 June 2025 J Woolley
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham Kevin M	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Spiteri	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	S McAlister S Purdon	N Ernst C Miller	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Cowley C Becus	Kevin & Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister	P Conroy	D Clarke	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23 June <i>St Paulinus of Nola</i>	24 June <i>THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST</i>	25 June	26 June	27 June <i>THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>	28 June <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary St Irenaeus</i>	29 June <i>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES</i>
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> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.30pm</u> Singleton Sacramental Program Meeting	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 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> SCAE 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 28 June. We wish him a safe and restful time away.

St Catherine's Greta Morning Tea

Join us after Mass at St Catherine's Church Greta for morning tea on Sunday 29 June 2025. All welcome!

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.

Save the Date – 150th Anniversary Mass for Sisters of Mercy

St Patrick's Parish will be joining with St Catherine's Catholic College for a very special Mass on Sunday 31 August 2025 at 10am to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of catholic education in Singleton. Mark your calendar! There will be more information in coming bulletins!

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!

Combined Churches of Singleton – Picnic in the Park

On Sunday 29 June 2025 from 12.30pm at Rosepoint Park let's enjoy a time of fellowship and BYO picnic lunch together as Christian brothers and sisters. We are blessed to part of 7 local churches that represent the one church of our Lord Jesus Christ! All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there! For more information have a chat with Chris Langford.

Bishops Flood Appeal – Manning Community

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported the Bishop's Flood Appeal – Manning Community. Thanks to your generosity, over \$100,000 has been raised to provide practical, local assistance to those impacted by recent floods.

Your kindness is helping families, schools, and parishes begin the long journey of recovery. Every donation has made a real difference, and we thank you for standing with our community in such a meaningful way.

As recovery continues, we ask you to keep those affected in your thoughts and prayers. Your continued support – through prayer, presence, and compassion – reminds us that we are never alone in times of hardship.

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our parish collections. Singleton Parish donation was \$1000, and Branxton Parish donation was \$500.

Mass Times App to be Discontinued

From 1 July, the Diocese will cease using the Mass Times App as a tool for parish communication and payments.

To keep informed about Mass times, events, and parish news, we encourage you to consider using some of the following channels:

Weekly Bulletin: Will still be available at Mass each week.

Parish Website: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au

Facebook Page: @SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish

Email Distribution List: email the parish office to be added to the list to receive the bulletin each week.

For Diocesan news and events, you can check their website www.mn.catholic.org.au

If you are making payments via the Mass App these will also cease. Direct Debits can be set up via the Catholic Community Fund, please contact the parish office.

Young Adults Retreat 2025

ENGAGE – ENCOUNTER – WORSHIP

Calling all young adults in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to come away on retreat together, stepping into a weekend of community, praise, Adoration, inputs by expert speakers, and an opportunity to encounter Christ's personal love for them! 18–35-year-olds are invited to attend from Friday 27 June to Sunday 29 June at Catalina Lakefront Retreat, Rathmines. Young couples with children are most welcome.

For more information and if you need help with sponsorship, reach out to mission@mn.catholic.org.au or book online at mn.catholic.org.au/event/young-adult-retreat-2025/

SRE Reflection Day

Are you a teacher of Special Religious Education or someone eager to explore this vital ministry? Come and be inspired at Bishop Michael's Reflection Day—a special gathering to reflect, learn, and connect. Join us on Thursday 10 July 9:30am–12:30pm at St Stephens, Tea Gardens. Deepen your understanding, share experiences, and be encouraged in your role. For more information and to register <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/sre-reflection-day-with-bishop-michael-kennedy/>

Human Library

We invite you to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West on 27 June 2025 at 10am for our next Human Library. Our Human Book, Fr Darryl Mackie, will be discussing Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and his own personal journey of discovery and what it means to us all. Registration essential at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/> click on *Human Library - A Personal Experience of Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week* or phone 0409033449.

Sequence (read after 2nd Reading)

Sing forth, O Zion, sweetly sing
The praises of thy Shepherd-King,
In hymns and canticles divine;
Dare all thou canst, thou hast no song
Worthy his praises to prolong,
So far surpassing powers like thine.

Today no theme of common praise
Forms the sweet burden of thy lays –
The living, life-dispensing food –
That food which at the sacred board
Unto the brethren twelve our Lord
His parting legacy bestowed.

Then be the anthem clear and strong,
Thy fullest note, thy sweetest song,
The very music of the breast:
For now shines forth the day sublime
That brings remembrance of the time
When Jesus first his table blessed.

Within our new King's banquet-hall
They meet to keep the festival
That closed the ancient paschal rite:
The old is by the new replaced;
The substance hath the shadow chased;
And rising day dispels the night.

Christ willed what he himself had done
Should be renewed while time should run,
In memory of his parting hour:
Thus, tutored in his school divine,
We consecrate the bread and wine;
And lo – a Host of saving power.

This faith to Christian men is given –
Bread is made flesh by words from heaven:
Into his blood the wine is turned:
What though it baffles nature's powers
Of sense and sight? This faith of ours
Proves more than nature e'er discerned.

Concealed beneath the two-fold sign,
Meet symbols of the gifts divine,
There lie the mysteries adored:
The living body is our food;
Our drink the ever-precious blood;
In each, one undivided Lord.

Not he that eateth it divides
The sacred food, which whole abides
Unbroken still, nor knows decay;
Be one, or be a thousand fed,
They eat alike that living bread
Which, still received, ne'er wastes away.

The good, the guilty share therein,
With sure increase of grace or sin,
The ghostly life, or ghostly death:
Death to the guilty; to the good
Immortal life. See how one food
Man's joy or woe accomplisheth.

We break the Sacrament; but bold
And firm thy faith shall keep its hold;
Deem not the whole doth more enfold
Than in the fractured part resides:
Deem not that Christ doth broken lie;
'Tis but the sign that meets the eye;
The hidden deep reality
In all its fullness still abides.

(Shortened version begins here)

*Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

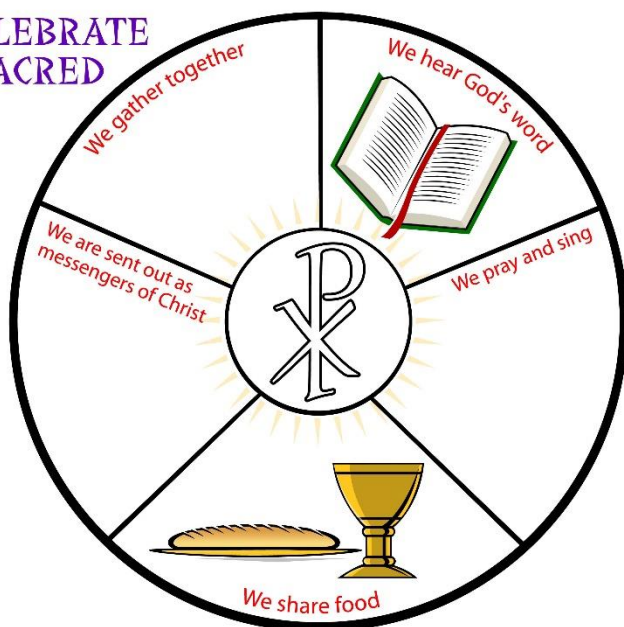
*Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;

*O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.



WE CELEBRATE THIS SACRED MEAL

Draw some
of the
things
we do
at mass.



Jesus feeds us when we are hungry.
Write in each loaf something that we,
our friends, families or our world are
hungry for.

