

**First Reading**

**Acts 12:1-11**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 33:2-9. R. v.5**

**(R.) The Lord set me free from all my fears.**

I will bless the Lord at all times  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued his from all his distress. **(R.)**

The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **(R.)**

**Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 16:18**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

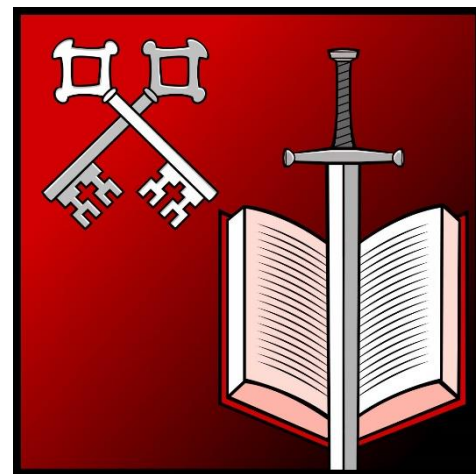
**Matthew 16:13-19**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**LEO'S LENS**

**REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

*Tellingly, it is the question that elicits the answer in today's Gospel. Jesus is the Christ who is unafraid to ask and listen before affirming what is true.*

*This is an idea which Pope Leo XIV picks up on. Reflecting on how his predecessor and namesake 'lived in an age of momentous and disruptive change', Leo clearly admires how Leo XIII 'sought to promote peace by encouraging social dialogue between capital and labour, technology and human intelligence, and different political cultures and nations.'*

*The Church's social doctrine, these popes remind us, is not incompatible with dialogue. Leo calls on Christians to seek 'to learn how to confront problems, for these are always different, since every generation is new, and faces new challenges, dreams and questions.'*

*It is therefore always imperative that we listen to the voices of the poor and marginalised, Leo says. 'Their viewpoints,' he points out, 'are vital if we are to see the world through God's eyes.'*

*Reminding us that the Second Vatican Council called the Church to engage in 'reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel', Leo invites us 'to participate actively and creatively in this discernment process, and thus contribute, with all of God's people, to the development of the Church's social doctrine in this age of significant social changes, listening to everyone and engaging in dialogue with all.'*

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God. <b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.	<b>We remember in our prayers:</b> <b>Sick:</b> 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. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b>
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C <b>1st Reading:</b> Isaiah 66:10-14 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Galatians 6:14-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 10:1-12. 17-20	<b>Anniversaries:</b> Denise Adams, Flo Crouch, Janina Gorczyca, Kevin Nowland, Philomena Matthews, Cheryl Nesbitt.  <b>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.</b>
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Allan Humphreys
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
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	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
St. Catherine's Catholic College		<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School		<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 6 JULY 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	1 July 2025 J Brackenrig
<b>Commentator</b>		K Ingold	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	P Goodwin A Borg Kevin M	
<b>Prayers</b>		K Ingold	P Boyd	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas K Gould	C Anderson L Harrison	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Kevin & Jonathon M	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	S Purdon		M Alsleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	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
<b>30 June</b> <i>First Martyrs of Rome</i>	<b>1 July</b>	<b>2 July</b>	<b>3 July</b> <i>St Thomas, Apostle</i>	<b>4 July</b> <i>St Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	<b>5 July</b> <i>St Anthony Zaccaria</i>	<b>6 July</b> <i>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C</i>
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## Parish Changes this Week

Welcome back Fr Thomas! Fr Thomas is unavailable to say 5pm Mass on Thursday 3 July in Singleton.

## St Catherine's Greta Morning Tea

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

## Combined Churches of Singleton – Picnic in the Park

This 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.

## St Patrick's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 5 July 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for *Maria Fuller, Lynette Williams and Warren Markham*, and all those whose anniversaries occur in June.

## Save the Date – 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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/>

# Thank you

**We extend our deepest gratitude to Fr. John Tobin for his ministry and presence in our parishes over the past two months. We're so grateful for the time he spent with us, celebrating Mass and providing for our pastoral needs. His commitment and service have been a true blessing to our community. We wish him all the best and know we will see him again in the future.**

## Changes to Parish Collections

After a long period of consultation between Parish Clergy, Parish Finance Councils and Parish Administration as well as members of the Bishop's staff, the following changes to parish collections will be effective from 1 July 2025.

- A new modernised monthly levy system, which will significantly reduce the administration burden on our parish staff and allow parishes to manage their finances more effectively.
- 1st and 2nd collections will remain. These are both essential for the sustainability of our parish community.
- Both collections will now support Clergy across the Diocese, our Parishes and the broader Diocesan community.
- The new levy system will provide parishes with increased access to broader Diocesan services and support. The nature of the services means there will **no longer be tax deductions** available to parishioners for these contributions.
- By removing the tax-deductible component of planned giving, we seek to further ease the administrative burden of our Parishes. The current practice of issuing tax receipts has become increasingly onerous in comparison to the tax deduction benefit for parishioners.

Your valued contributions will continue to benefit the Parish and the work of the Church and we foresee these changes to Planned Giving to be overwhelmingly positive for our parish communities. There are no immediate changes to the way your planned giving is collected. However, for those who used the mass app, please note that this will no longer be available from July.

We thank you for your ongoing financial support. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please speak with your Parish Priest or Parish Secretary who have more detailed information.

## Mass Times App Will 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](http://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](http://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.



## Scriptural context

When the gospel writer has Jesus declare that he will give to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he is quoting almost directly from a verse in Isaiah, "I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." (22:22). The passage in Isaiah is about the appointment of a steward – a caretaker – for the people of Jerusalem. It makes clear that the one appointed carries the authority of the Lord who appoints him. When almost the same words are used about Peter, it carries the meaning from its original context.

## Living the gospel

### Who do you say I am?

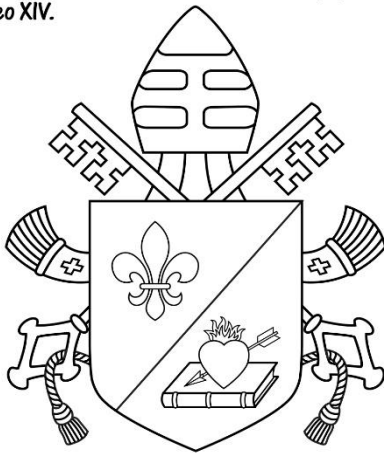
The question Jesus puts to his disciples is the very same question that he puts to us every day of our lives, "Who do you say I am?" How we choose to answer that question will be reflected in our attitude towards self, others and to life itself. How we answer that question will change frequently throughout life as experience and changing spirituality lead us into asking other questions of ourselves. If we hold that the teaching and example of Jesus are important to us, then we are bound to strive towards emulating them in our own lives.

## Different View

### Stone or Rock?

An argument exists about the translation of the naming of Peter as the rock on which the Church will be built. In Greek, the line can be translated as 'you are a small stone and on this large rock...'. In this argument, the role of Peter is diminished but the large rock referred to is either Jesus himself or Peter's declaration of faith. However, in Aramaic (spoken by Jesus) the word Kepha or Cephas is used for both Peter's name and the word for rock. Those who seek to diminish the role of the papacy in the Church will argue about the translation of this line.

Jesus anointed Peter as the leader of his church and said to him, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven". As the leader of the Catholic Church, the Pope has on his papal crest the keys of Peter. Colour in the papal crest of Pope Leo XIV.



Who do **YOU** say I am?

Write some words which describe Jesus.

The apostle Paul is best known as a great traveler who spread the message of Jesus and established communities of faith wherever he went. Help Paul find his way to the next city on his travels - enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal the destination.

