

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

ATSI Sunday

6 July 2025

First Reading **Isaiah 66:10-14**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her,
all you who mourned her!
That you may be suckled, filled,
from her consoling breast,
that you may savour with delight
her glorious breasts.
For thus says the Lord:
Now towards her I send flowing
peace, like a river,
and like a stream in spate
the glory of the nations.
At her breast will her nurslings be carried
and fondled in her lap.
Like a son comforted by his mother
will I comfort you.
And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.
At the sight your heart will rejoice,
and your bones flourish like the grass.
To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!
(R.)

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading **Galatians 6:14-18**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

The only thing I can boast about is the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the
world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It
does not matter if a person is circumcised or
not; what matters is for him to become an
altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to

all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of
God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after
this; the marks on my body are those of
Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Col 3:15. 16**

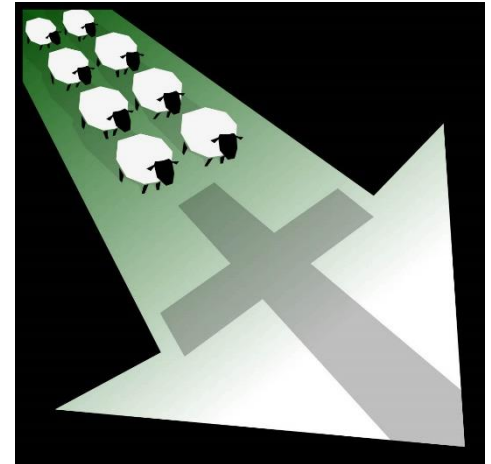
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message
live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 10:1-12. 17-20**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and
sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all
the towns and places he himself was to visit.
He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the
labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the
harvest to send labourers to his harvest.
Start off now, but remember, I am sending
you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no
purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no
one on the road. Whatever house you go into,
let your first words be, "Peace to this house!"
And if a man of peace lives there, your peace
will go and rest on him; if not, it will come
back to you. Stay in the same house, taking
what food and drink they have to offer, for the
labourer deserves his wages; do not move
from house to house. Whenever you go into a
town where they make you welcome, eat
what is set before you. Cure those in it who
are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very
near to you." But whenever you enter a town
and they do not make you welcome, go out
into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very
dust of your town that clings to our feet, and
leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the
kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, that
on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom
as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,'
they said, 'even the devils submit to us when
we use your name.' He said to them, 'I
watched Satan fall like lightning from
heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread
underfoot serpents and scorpions and the
whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall
ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the
spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your
names are written in heaven.'

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



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Musing on some of the key teachings of St Paul and St Augustine, Pope Leo reminds us that unity in diversity is one of the mystical treasures of the Church.

Unity and diversity need not be opposed. The Mystical Body of Christ, after all, requires eyes *and* hands, ears *and* feet. Without diversity we could, to use a common adage, be all thumbs.

Speaking to a group of bishops recently, the pope picked up this theme and exhorted them to 'go forward in unity, thinking especially of the synodal path.' To grasp what 'synodality' means we can start by recalling that we are a single Body, journeying together. It is, in short, a type of *deliberative togetherness*.

The pope encourages us to therefore embrace synodality as 'a mindset, in the heart, in decision-making processes and in ways of acting.' And, building on this, the pope wants us to 'look to tomorrow with serenity, and do not be afraid to make courageous choices!'

'No-one can prevent you from being close to the people, sharing life, walking with the last, serving the poor', he told that same group of bishops. In doing so, he reminds each one of us that 'God is greater than our mediocrity: let us allow ourselves to be drawn to Him! Let us trust in his providence.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.	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. Baptisms: Billie and Jimmy Sheppard (Branxton). Nora and Luka Hindmarsh (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God. Recently Deceased: Bruce Ryan. Anniversaries: Herb Banister, Leo Ernst, James Garner, Marie Garner, Neville Garner, Maria Fuller and Ted 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.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14 2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-20 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37	
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	<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 13 JULY 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	8 July 2025 J Brackenrig
Commentator		A Humphreys	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	R James M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		A Humphreys	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Joan Janette	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk		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
7 July <i>St Peter To Rot</i>	8 July	9 July <i>St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions</i>	10 July	11 July <i>St Benedict</i>	12 July	13 July <i>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C</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>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</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.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 8 July 2025 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. If you are single, come along for a chat and camaraderie over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

St Patrick's Women's Guild will meet on Wednesday 16 July (NOT 9 July) in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. This month we will start with a light luncheon from 12 noon, followed by our meeting. All are welcome, especially new members.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Everyone is welcome to come along to the St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch on Friday 18 July from 12 noon in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant.

NAIDOC Community Days

Singleton Council is hosting the Singleton NAIDOC Week Community Day on Wednesday 9 July 10am-2pm at Singleton Showground. Everyone is invited to take part in the whole-of-community event. Head along and enjoy the huge range of activities on the day, most of which are free. For more information go to www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/naidoc

On Tuesday 8 July from 10am-2pm Barkuma's NAIDOC Family Fun Day will be held at Binarrri Jinama-Gu, Sawyers Gully.

There are lots of other activities during the week in the Cessnock Council area for more information go to www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/NAIDOCWeek2025

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!

Children's Ministry Network Meeting

Are you passionate about nurturing faith in children within your parish? Then this network meeting is for you! Join us on Wednesday 9 July from 10am-2pm at The Atrium, 37 Delprat Ave, Beresfield for a special Children's Ministry Network Meeting where we'll explore ways to grow and support ministry for young people. The session will feature a demonstration from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a beautiful approach to children's faith formation grounded in Montessori principles. Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/childrens-ministry-network-meeting/>

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.

Build a Parish That Reaches Out

Can a simple invitation really change a life? According to Michael Harvey, it absolutely can and often does. In this powerful, interactive session, renowned speaker and founder of *Back to Church Sunday*, Michael Harvey, will invite us into a bold new vision: a parish culture where invitation is second nature, not second thought. Together, we'll:

Unpack the fears that hold us back from reaching out.

Discover how the Holy Spirit leads and empowers our invitations
Gain practical tools to make inviting others a natural part of our faith journey. Be challenged and encouraged no matter where we are in our spiritual walk. When invitation becomes everyone's responsibility, renewal takes root, and the Church begins to flourish in new, Spirit-led ways.

Join us at MacKillop Catholic Parish 7 Milson St, Charlestown NSW from 6-9pm on Friday 18 July 2025 FREE dinner provided. Register using QR code or using this link:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/invitation-changes-everything-build-a-parish-that-reaches-out/> or phone Yvonne on 0450-323-206 for more information.



NATSICC National Assembly – Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrate and explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and the Catholic faith together on the traditional lands of the Wonnarua people in the beautiful Hunter Valley. To register your interest to attend the NATSICC National Assembly being hosted by the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese at Rydges Hunter Valley from 29 September to 3 October go to <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2025-assembly.html>



We hope all the staff and students in our Parish schools enjoy their school holidays!



Spotlight on Safeguarding

CYBERBULLYING

On average, Australian teenagers spend 14.5 hours a week online and use up to four different types of social media platforms. Whilst there is no doubt that digital technology brings many positives it also presents risks and challenges.

Cyberbullying is one of the most prevalent online harms experienced by children and adolescents.

So, what protective strategies can we put in place to help protect our loved ones from cyberbullying?

An evidence review was completed by the NSW Government in August 2024 which found that cyberbullying interventions are more effective if the child/adolescents' broader social environments are also considered. Let's look at the key points below.

Family:

- Children and adolescents with a positive family environment, greater parental warmth and more interaction with their parents are less likely to cyberbully or be cyberbullied
- Parental monitoring of online usage
- Parents having open discussions and co-creating rules for online usage with their child/adolescent
- Only restricting online usage does not appear effective and may increase the risk of cyberbullying others

School:

- Promoting a positive school climate
- Providing a sense of safety and belonging
- Clear rules, boundaries and follow through
- Staff who treat students with respect, fairness and kindness

Peer:

- Positive peer influence
- Greater belonging at school
- Feeling safe at school
- Social norms – cyberbullying not being an acceptable or appropriate norm

Individual:

- Individuals with higher self-esteem and/or better emotional management are less likely to cyberbully or be cyberbullied
- Individuals with higher empathy and more positive attitudes are less likely to cyberbully
- Individuals with greater self-awareness and more positive self-related attitude are protective factors for being cyberbullied but not for cyberbullying
- Spending less time online especially on their own devices in privacy

Overall, findings suggest that protecting children and adolescents from cyberbullying is more than just one person's responsibility. Strategies to address Cyberbullying at different levels, involving multiple stakeholders (education system leaders, school leaders, parents/carers, community members, etc.) are needed. If you would like to read more on the evidence review you can go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/category/office-of-safeguarding/>

Remember, if you or someone you know is experiencing cyberbullying, follow these steps:

1. **Collect evidence** - take screenshots, note down the user profile, date/time it was shared and the URL
2. **Report harmful content** - Cyberbullying should be reported directly to the platform that was used to share the harmful content. If the platform does not remove the post then a report can be made to the e-safety commissioner for review: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report/forms>
3. **Prevent further contact** - Do not respond, ignore, mute or block the user. Tighten your privacy settings.