

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

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

**Sea Sunday**

**13 July 2025**

**First Reading Deuteronomy 30:10-14**  
*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.*

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 68:14. 17. 30-31. 33-34. 36-37. R. see v.33**

**(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

This is my prayer to you,  
my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,  
with your help that never fails:  
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;  
in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**

As for me in my poverty and pain  
let your help, O God, lift me up.  
I will praise God's name with a song;  
I will glorify him with thanksgiving. **(R.)**

The poor when they see it will be glad  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needy  
and does not spurn his servants in their  
chains. **(R.)**

For God will bring help to Zion  
and rebuild the cities of Judah.  
The sons of his servants shall inherit it;  
those who love his name shall dwell there.  
**(R.)**

**Second Reading Colossians 1:15-20**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.*

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation See John 6:63. 68**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel Luke 10:25-37**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'

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



**LEO'S LENS  
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

Life, Pope Leo says, 'is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are.'

'We find ourselves in front of others,' he continues, 'faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong.'

The pope reminds us to stand with the victims of circumstance, wherever we find them. We should pray for those who are deprived of homes and livelihoods by war. Where possible, we should also give practical aid and work for peace.

Closer to home, too, we have responsibilities to those around us: the elderly, migrants and refugees, the poor, the lonely, and so on.

We should never rest on our spiritual laurels. The pope warns those who, even among Christians, 'think that their own journey must take precedence.' Christianity, as he so often points out, has a unifying mission. We cannot walk by on the roads of our own age, unwilling 'to stop for another.'

Reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the pope reminds us that 'the practice of worship does not automatically lead to being compassionate.' Rather, he points out that 'before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human.'

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory. <b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.	<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, Chris O'Leary, 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> Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C <b>1st Reading:</b> Genesis 18:1-10 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Colossians 1:24-28 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 10:38-42	<b>Recently Deceased:</b> Fay Lea. <b>Anniversaries:</b> Maurie Garner, Ellen Holz and Clara Thomas. <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> When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

<b>PARISH CONTACTS</b>			
<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	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>
<b>Facebook</b>	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>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<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>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mr David Crawford</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>

<b>MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025</b>						
	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8.15am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 5pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	15 July 2025 G McMillan C Langford
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Readers</b>	S Purdon C Trunk	L Ehlers	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCCC Staff	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Offertory</b>	J & S Stafa	Cecilia Helena	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	P Conroy		M Aisleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	

*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.*

<b>WEEKLY MASS DIARY</b>						
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>14 July</b> <i>St Camillus de Lellis</i>	<b>15 July</b> <i>St Bonaventure</i>	<b>16 July</b> <i>Our Lady of Mt Carmel</i>	<b>17 July</b>	<b>18 July</b>	<b>19 July</b>	<b>20 July</b> SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C
<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>Mass</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> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00m</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>5.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</b> 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> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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 Office Changes**

The Parish Office will be closed for the week **21-25 July 2025**. Please have any items for the bulletins on 20 July and 27 July to the office no later than **Wednesday 16 July**.

## **St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting**

St Patrick's Women's Guild will meet on **Wednesday 16 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.

## **Vinnies Winter Appeal**

The Vinnies Winter Appeal for Branxton and Greta Churches will be held over the weekend of **19 and 20 July**. Receipts will be available on the day. For more information phone Alan Humphreys 0417-832-030.

## **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!

## **Celebrating the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nicene Creed**

Mission & Evangelisation invites you to this premium formation offering with Associate Professor Joel Hodge, National Head, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University on **Wednesday 30 July 2025**.

Choose from one of two two-hour sessions at 3:30pm or 6:00pm as he immerses us in the history and theology of the Nicene Creed. This 'deep-dive' into 'what we believe' is not to be missed as we celebrate its 1700 years. This free event, over 2hrs, face to face, will become part of an ongoing formation series hosted at St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland in 2025. In between the sessions there will be a shared light supper.

Register at

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/celebrating-the-1700th-anniversary-of-the-nicene-creed/>

## **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 the 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>

## **The Liturgical Life of the Church: Celebrating Revelation**

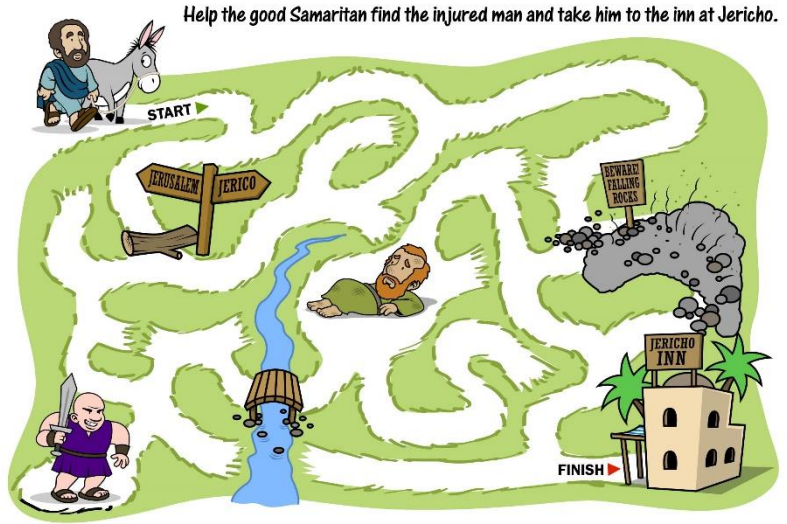
Join Sister Louise Gannon and Father Andrew Doohan over two consecutive **Saturdays, 16 and 23 August**, to explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy. This is the final unit of the Christian Formation Course. This year we are inviting the participation of any interested members of the faithful, from parishes and schools, who wish to explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy to join us the Toohey Room, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West from 9am-4pm. These principles shape the meaning and practice of Catholic liturgy and so deepen our understanding and appreciation of why we do what we do. This is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God, your understanding of Catholic liturgy, and to reflect on your own full conscious and active participation as a member of the Assembly. All are welcome. Morning tea and lunch provided. Attendance at both days is required to complete the unit. Registrations close **11 August**. To register go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/the-liturgical-life-of-the-church-celebrating-revelation/> or send your enquiries to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

## **Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade Camino**

Calling All Men of Faith: Walk the Camino, Pray the Rosary, Build Brotherhood. Join a growing movement of men from across the Hunter region for a meaningful Rosary Camino – a time to pray, walk, and witness together in faith on **Saturday 30 August** from **10.30am**. As we journey from Sacred Heart Cathedral to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and back, we'll unite in praying the Holy Rosary, seeking the intercession of Our Lady for our families, our Church, and our world. Whether you're a seasoned pilgrim or walking for the first time, this Camino invites you into something greater – a shared mission of prayer and presence. Bring a friend, your parish group, or simply come as you are. Let us walk together – for Our Lady, for our Church, for each other. Registrations close **23 August**. Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/hunter-mens-rosary-crusade-camino/> Enquiries to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

*The Men's Rosary Crusade is held every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from 10.30am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.*

Draw the good Samaritan as he helps the injured man.



Help the good Samaritan find the injured man and take him to the inn at Jericho.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Priests and Levites

The priest and Levite get a pretty bad wrap out of this story. Yet, their behaviour would have been unremarkable to the original audience. In Jewish culture, to touch blood made a person ritually unclean and unable to participate in religious rites. Both characters in the story were heading towards Jerusalem – towards the Temple – to carry out their religious duties. To touch the bloodied man would have meant that they were unable to perform their duties. The audience would have expected nothing different from these two men. Their 'crime' was to place duty before compassion and the needs of another.



## HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

### Contemporary context

Being such a famous parable, it is common to see this story retold and acted out in 'modern' contexts. However, such attempts invariably lead to a literal retelling of the story and an overemphasis and reinforcement of social prejudices. Who gets cast in the role of the Samaritan? A member of the most socially outcast and hated group in society! Jesus' choice of the Samaritan as the hero was not to highlight the animosity between Jews and Samaritans, but rather to confound the expectations and prejudices of his audience. Let's understand the story in its intended setting before we change it!

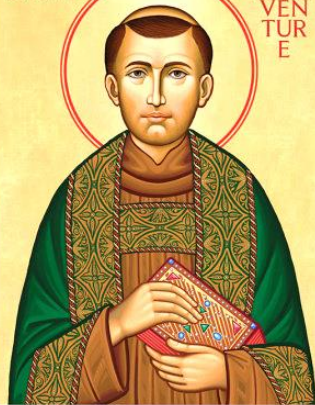
## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### The 'Rule of Three'

Jesus was a good storyteller. He used a lot of the 'tricks of the trade' of good storytellers. Using a rule of three remains a common device to help storytellers remember the story. (Think of the number of times fairy tales use this device.) In the rule of three, the third repetition of an event or action always holds the key. Jesus used this device to great effect in his parables because he invariably broke the rule! He used the rule to lull his audience into a predictable story and then turned things upside down by having the unexpected occur.

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## Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

St Bonaventure joined the order of Franciscans in 1243, and was soon recognised for his intellectual talents. He was sent to study in Paris where he taught and preached for many years. He was a contemporary of St Thomas Aquinas, with whom he defended the mendicant friars against their opponents. In 1257, Bonaventure was elected as the head of the Franciscans, and has since been considered the greatest friar minor since St Francis of Assisi himself. He wrote important works on theology, philosophy and mysticism, and was declared a doctor of the church in 1588.

## Launching into the Deep - Sea Sunday 2025

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of July, we celebrate Sea Sunday. It's not only a time to consider financially supporting Stella Maris and its missionary outreach, but a moment to think about the lives and work of seafarers and the indisputable contribution they make.



STELLA MARIS

Knowing that people recognise and appreciate their efforts and difficulties is a great source of comfort and support. Please support the work Stella Maris do caring for the spiritual, social and material welfare of all Seafarers and Fishers around the world. Use the QR code to make your donation or go to <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>

