

First Reading **Genesis 18:1-10**
A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1**

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.
(R.)

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Colossians 1:24-28**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Luke 8:15**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 10:38-42**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

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



REFLECTION
LEO'S LENS BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo wants us to keep in mind that 'authentic wisdom has more to do with recognising the true meaning of life, than with the availability of data.' Reflecting on rapid advances presently being made in Artificial Intelligence, the pope encourages everyone to engage in 'serious reflection... on the inherently ethical dimension of AI.'

While acknowledging that AI has 'extraordinary potential to benefit the human family', he notes that it 'also raises deeper questions concerning the proper use of such technology in generating a more authentically just and human global society.'

Generative AI particularly 'raises troubling questions on its possible repercussions on humanity's openness to truth and beauty,' he says. It risks affecting 'our distinctive ability to grasp and process reality.'

While we need not turn our backs on technological progress, we should regularly pause and reflect on what real progress means. Whatever use we make of AI, if it takes us away from being attentive to truth and justice then something is awry.

As the pope reminds us, 'tools ... draw much of their ethical force from the intentions of the individuals that wield them.' Each of us, therefore, should reflect on when and how and why we use AI. Does it help us attend to Christ, or subtly guide us away?

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<p>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.</p> <p>COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.</p>	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: 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. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Ella Bridge, Elliot and Braxton Geary (Branxton). Natalie Orlowski and Will Manning (Singleton). Reuben Clement (Singleton).</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Brian Coffey, Beryl Brennan, Errol Wilson.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Very Rev Peter Meagher, Colin Crow, Barry Davy, Adrian and Margaretha Klasen, Warren Markham, Janice Tierney.</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>
<p>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 1st Reading: Genesis 18:20-32 2nd Reading: Colossians 2:12-14 Gospel: Luke 11:1-13</p>	
<p>MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i></p>	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Administrator	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	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	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 27 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	22 July 2025 OFFICE CLOSED NO COUNTING
Commentator		D Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	P Conroy S Purdon	L Harrison	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		D Clarke	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	Darryl Joy	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk		J Dunn	T Cochrane	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
21 July <i>St Lawrence of Brindisi</i>	22 July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	23 July <i>St Bridget</i>	24 July <i>St Sharbel Makhluf</i>	25 July <i>ST JAMES, APOSTLE St Christopher</i>	26 July <i>Sts Joachim & Ann</i>	27 July <i>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> Mass Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> SCAE <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 News

The Parish Office will be closed for the week **21-25 July 2025**. For any urgent issues, please call Fr Thomas 0470-246-021.

Bishop Michael Kennedy has appointed Fr Thomas Chirackal as Administrator for the parishes of Branxton and Singleton as his appointment as Parish Priest expired on 5 November 2024. This appointment as Administrator will continue through to 5 November 2026. *Parish Priest appointment is usually for 6 years; Fr Thomas has been here for 6 years already and will be here for 2 more years hence his appointment as Administrator.*

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. Or you can donate at www.vinnies.org.au/donate

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!

Volunteer for Vinnies!

Donate your time to make a real difference in the lives of people who are disadvantaged or living in poverty. Volunteering with Vinnies is a rich and rewarding experience. By donating your time to help deliver our services and projects, you can be sure you're making a difference in people's lives. You do not need to be Catholic to volunteer. Scan the QR code to find out more or go to <https://www.vinnies.org.au/get-involved/volunteering>



Celebrating the 1700th 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**. 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/>

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

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



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2025

World Day for Grandparents and The Elderly 2025

The Holy Father has chosen the theme of the Fifth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held this year on **Sunday 27 July**: **"Blessed are those who have not lost hope"** (cf. Sir 14:2). These words, taken from the Book of Sirach, express the blessedness of the elderly and indicate hope placed in the Lord as the way to a Christian and reconciled old age. In the Jubilee year, the Day, established by Pope Francis in 2021, is intended to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly can become a sign of hope in every family and church community. The Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life renews to everyone Pope Francis' invitation to celebrate the Day in every diocese, and to dedicate the celebrations of Sunday 27 July to the elderly, promoting visits and opportunities for encounters between the generations.

Register Now for Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Expressions of interest have opened for 100 young people across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to join Bishop Michael for ACYF25 - a national gathering of Catholic youth, from Grade 10 through to 25 years old. The experience provides young people an opportunity to come together and connect whilst deepening their faith and relationship with Jesus. It's not a conference; it's a Catholic festival. For more information and to register visit <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/australian-catholic-youth-festival/>

What things can you do to make people feel welcome in your home?



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

We welcome Jesus with generous hearts

Lk 10:38-42

T Y I S I S T E R Y W O R K W
X W O R R I E D S E Y U W N B
H O K B D K S H C Z U O Y T M
S J D N I N Y E K P L A E Q T
B V N C S C H O S E N W V K N
E C F Y C I Y Q K U G N Y U E
S E H O I U P S E T Z M Y J C
T F X G P P N B D L M R E F E
C V G T L W E L C O M E D X S
V N S O E P B L S P V H F I S
J Q W Z S L I S T E N I N G A
L E Y L G Y V N C L V M J N R
R N U O O B O E C A U A L F Y
X S W D U Z Y D W J R R G O M
V T R A V E L L I N G Y T K T

Try to find these words:

best
chosen
disciples
listening
Mary
necessary
sister
travelling
upset
welcomed
work
worried

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C [N16ORSUC_2004_WSG.rtf]

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Scriptural context

Scriptural context

It is no accident that this story about Martha and Mary immediately follows the parable of the Good Samaritan. We must remember that Jesus is portrayed as telling that parable as clarification of the law to love God and love neighbour. The Samaritan provides an example of what it means to love one's neighbour whilst in this story, Mary provides an example of what it means to love God. Together, the two stories tell us that compassionate service to one's neighbour is crucial but that God does not require service, simply love.



Have you thought?

Action vs Reflection

This gospel is sometimes portrayed as a dichotomy between action and reflection. Many within the Christian tradition adopt the Martha approach of responding to Christ through service and action while others see Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus as a model for contemplation and reflection. The two different models have developed quite distinctly in the history of the Church and it must be said that the Martha approach of service and action has been in the ascendance for some time. However, action that is not grounded in prayerful reflection runs the risk of becoming well-intentioned busy-ness.

Different View

Feminist critique

Feminist theologian Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza suggests that this story is less about an event in the life of Jesus than it is about events in the life of the early Church. In the first 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus, women played an equal role in leadership and ministry to the community. However, by the time of Luke's gospel, men were becoming more dominant in the community. By portraying Jesus as admonishing Martha's active service and praising Mary's passive listening role, the passage can be interpreted as endorsing the relegation of women to less active roles.