

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Vocations Awareness Week

3 August 2025

First Reading Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as

worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

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



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'In our life as disciples,' Pope Leo says, 'we can always risk falling into a rut, a routine.' Feeling too comfortable, we can adopt 'a tendency to follow the same old pastoral plans without experiencing interior renewal and a willingness to respond to new challenges.'

The history of the Church, the pope reminds us, is a story of adaptation. He encourages us to look for apostolic 'openness to change, to new events, encounters and concrete situations.'

The first apostles showed us the way. We should, Pope Leo says, try and recapture 'their readiness to consider new approaches to evangelisation in response to the problems and difficulties raised by our brothers and sisters in the faith.'

'We need to ask ourselves', he says: 'Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What place does he occupy in our lives and in the life of the Church? How can we bear witness to this hope in our daily lives and proclaim it to those whom we meet?'

'If we want to keep our identity as Christians from being reduced to a relic of the past,' the pope suggests, then, 'as Pope Francis often reminded us, it is important to move beyond a tired and stagnant faith.' We are not called to be hoarders of piety, but givers of hope.

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| ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste. | We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Dulcie Maynard, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Marianne Reynolds, Allan Seque, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Baptisms: Bella Vu, Mia Nguyen, Calista Nguyen (Branxton). Lyla Clements and Sullivan Clements (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God. Anniversaries: Corrie McAleer, Mollie Bogan, Lester Bogan, Des Carrall, Frank Dunn, John Lynch. 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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 1st Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9 2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Gospel: Luke 12:32-48 | |
| 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 10 AUGUST 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 | 5 August 2025 J Brackenrig |
| Commentator | | L Harrison | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | E Janssen | |
| Readers | H Hartcher M Thomas | A Humphreys | J Duldulao H Duldulao | M Stowe R James | T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen | |
| Prayers | | L Harrison | C Langford | F King | E Janssen | |
| Offertory | J & K Zaragoza | Lyn Joan | M George J Dunn | J Cowley C Becus | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | |
| Extraordinary Minister | S Purdon | | 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 |
| 4 August St John Vianney | 5 August Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major | 6 August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF LORD | 7 August St Sixtus II & Companions St Cajetan | 8 August St Mary of Cross (Mary MacKillop), Virgin | 9 August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross | 10 August NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C |
| 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 St Patrick's | <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> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton |
| | <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta | | <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton | <u>5.30pm</u> Practice for Confirmation Mass Branxton | <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton | <u>7.50am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta <u>4.00pm</u> Confirmation Mass Branxton |

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.

Sacramental Program 2025

Please keep the children participating in the parish Sacramental programs in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Branxton Parish will celebrate these very special faith milestones with Mass on 10 August 2025 at 4pm in Branxton with Bishop Michael Kennedy presiding. All parishioners are invited to support the children in celebrating their faith formation.

150th Anniversary Mass for Sisters of Mercy Education



St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton

31ST AUGUST 2025

Sunday

You are warmly invited to join us for Parish Mass at
St Patrick's Singleton
28 Queen Street Singleton NSW 2330

Sunday 31st August at 10:00am

Following Mass, we will gather for a shared morning tea to reminisce and celebrate our rich community heritage.

The College will be open for school tours until 2:00pm.



Click this link for more information on the events planned during the week 1-6 September

<https://www.singleton.catholic.edu.au/media/1628/150-years-program.pdf>

Sacrament of Reconciliation Times

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the following times each week:

Branxton from 5.30pm on Saturday evenings
After Mass on Thursdays
Greta After Mass on Tuesdays
Singleton After Mass on Saturday mornings

In an emergency, Reconciliation is available by appointment.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Historically, holy days of obligation were special occasions on which Catholics were obliged to attend Mass. Catholics were also encouraged to refrain from any work or involvement with commerce on these days. In May 2001, with permission from the Vatican, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference decided that in Australia, the Catholic faithful should observe the following as holy days of obligation - all Sundays of the year, Christmas Day, and The Assumption (August 15 - the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

For Parishioners to observe The Feast of the Assumption, Mass will be said in Singleton at 9.20am and Branxton at 10.30am.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet for their monthly luncheon on Friday 15 August from 12pm in Miller Park Hotel. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

The Liturgical Life of the Church: Celebrating Revelation

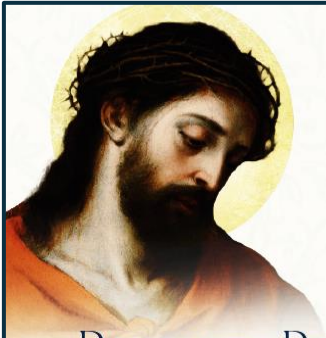
Join Sister Louise Gannon and Father Andrew Doohan over two consecutive Saturdays, 16 and 23 August, to explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy. This is the final unit of the Christian Formation Course. This year we are inviting the participation of any interested members of the faithful, 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

Perpetual Day of Remembrance & National Safeguarding Sunday

Since 2017, our Diocese has observed a *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* as a public acknowledgement of the harm caused by abuse within the Church and a sign of ongoing solidarity with survivors and their families. It is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to remembering the life-long impact on survivors and their families so as not to allow such harm to be repeated. In recent years, this day has coincided with National Safeguarding Sunday, which calls us to reflect on and strengthen our commitment to protecting the vulnerable in our communities.

After consulting with people across the Diocese, and in response to the strong desire to unite these observances, Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced that from 2025, the Perpetual Day of Remembrance will be commemorated on National Safeguarding Sunday. This shared day of prayer and reflection will next be observed on Sunday, 14 September 2025 across The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

We thank all those who participated in the recent survey and contributed to this important discernment. Together, we continue the work of healing, accountability, and building a culture of safety and care.

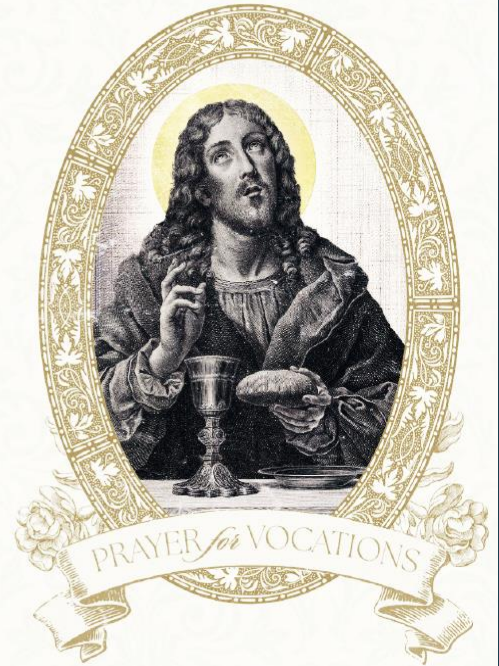


Prayer *For* Priests

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with your Precious Blood. Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood. Let Your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

Prayer *For* Religious

Jesus, renew your Bride, the Church. Bless your consecrated women, spiritual brides and mothers, and restore the family of God. Help us all to be attentive to your promptings to renew the Church through the renewal of religious life. Inspire many women to say yes to spousal life with you. Heal our Church and bless us Lord, as your friends...
Friends of the Bridegroom.
Amen.



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

Have you
thought
about
later life?

**There's No Better
Time Than Now.**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has produced a range of educational resources to raise awareness about the importance of planning ahead for later life. The focus of our **Have You Thought About Later Life?** campaign is to provide resources in English and five community languages to support Australians to have these conversations.

Future planning empowers older people to have choice and control over their senior years and provides peace of mind for them and their loved ones. It involves thinking about and then talking to those you trust about your future healthcare, financial and lifestyle choices.

Planning ahead maximises your opportunity to live and enjoy your later years the way you want and helps those around you understand your wishes and how best to support you. Making plans can safeguard your rights in the future, reduce family stress and conflict, and even protect you against elder abuse.

For more information visit: humanrights.gov.au/planningahead

If you are concerned about elder abuse and want the opportunity to talk to someone about your concerns and options for getting help call 1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374) - the National Elder Abuse phone line. This service automatically redirects callers seeking information or advice on elder abuse to their state or territory phone line service.