

**First Reading      Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10**  
*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14**

**(R.) Lord, come to my aid!**

I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry. **(R.)**

He drew me from the deadly pit,  
from the miry clay.  
He set my feet upon a rock  
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**

He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.  
Many shall see and fear  
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**

As for me, wretched and poor,  
the Lord thinks of me.  
You are my rescuer, my help,  
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

**Second Reading      Hebrews 12:1-4**  
*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation      John 10:27**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;**  
**I know them, and they follow me.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel      Luke 12:49-53**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!  
'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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



**REFLECTION BY MICHAEL TATE**

***I have come to bring fire***

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth.

So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit '... like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples?

Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite.

We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

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<p><b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.</p> <p><b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.</p>	<p><b>We remember in our prayers:</b></p> <p><b>Sick:</b> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Laurie Brodbeck, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Dulcie Maynard, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Allan Seque, Sharon Wood, Zoe. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b></p> <p><b>Baptisms:</b> Elsie Manthey and Archie Manthey (Branxton). Noah Felsch (Singleton).</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Rev Harry Fenton, John Archinal, Mary Brodbeck, Ellen Holz, Beven Spinks</p> <p><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></p>
<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C <b>1st Reading:</b> Isaiah 66:18-21 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 13:22-30</p>	
<p><b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup. we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</p>	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<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>
Parish Secretary	<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>
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>			
<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>			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<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>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<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>

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 24 AUGUST 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	19 August 2025 G McMillan C Langford
<b>Commentator</b>		A Humphreys	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	E Janssen	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	D Clarke	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	T Janssen N Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>		A Humphreys	H Duldulao	Donna	E Janssen	
<b>Offertory</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	Helena Norma	J Tindale E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	P Conroy		J Dunn	T Cochrane	<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.

WEEKLY MASS DIARY						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
18 August	19 August St John Eudes	20 August St Bernard	21 August St Pius X	22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23 August St Rose of Lima	24 August TWENTY-FIRST 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>		
8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  11.00am <b>Mass</b> Elizabeth Gates	9.00am <b>Novena</b> 9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  5.00pm <b>SCAE</b> Glendonbrook	7.00am <b>Mass</b> 10.00m <b>SCAE</b> 5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	7.50am <b>Rosary</b> 8.15am <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.

## **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.

Singleton Parish will celebrate these very special faith milestones with Mass this Sunday 14 September 2025 at 4pm in Branxton with Bishop Michael Kennedy. All parishioners are invited to support the children in celebrating their faith journey.

- Please note that 5pm Mass will not be said on 14 Sept.

## **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.

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass for Sisters of Mercy Education**

Congratulations to the Sisters of Mercy, whose founding Sisters arrived in Singleton from Ireland on 31 August 1875 to begin the Mercy's long years of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

A Mass to mark this occasion, will be celebrated at 10am on 31 August 2025 in St Patrick's Church, Singleton followed by morning tea in St Catherine's College.

After morning tea, you are invited to share a *Ritual of Remembrance* in the Convent Chapel and Cemetery to honour the women who gave their lives in service to the Diocese. All welcome.

St Catherine's College will also be open for tours until 2pm on this day with a display of memorabilia in the school hall.

For more information on the events planned at the college during the week 1-6 September.

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

## **Praise & Worship Experience**

You are invited to come and experience Praise and Worship, a beautiful opportunity to experience and express our Catholic faith through music, led by local worship leaders. We extend the welcome to all people from around the Diocese to an uplifting night of music, prayer, food and, community at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton on Sunday 24 August 2025 from 2.30-4.30pm. All are welcome – children must be supervised.

Please register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/praise-worship-experience/>

## **M@SC Night**

As part of the 150 years celebrations, St Catherine's Catholic College presents their '**Music at St Catherine's (M@SC) Night**'. This event celebrates the school's rich history of music education. Everyone is invited to attend on Thursday 4 September at Singleton Civic Centre. The night will feature vocal and instrumental students and small group performances. Light refreshments will be served from 5.30pm before the show commences at 6.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDQOC>

## **St Catherine's College Musical – Aladdin Jr.**

This year, the talented Secondary students at St Catherine's Catholic College will be joining forces with the Primary Junior Theatre Makers to present **Aladdin Jr.** With a set towering over three metres high, a life-sized baby elephant, and plenty more surprises in store, this show promises to be nothing short of spectacular! There are just **three performances**:

- **Friday 22 August – 6:30pm**
- **Saturday 23 August – 2:00pm**
- **Saturday 23 August – 6:30pm**

Performances are kid friendly! Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1426713>



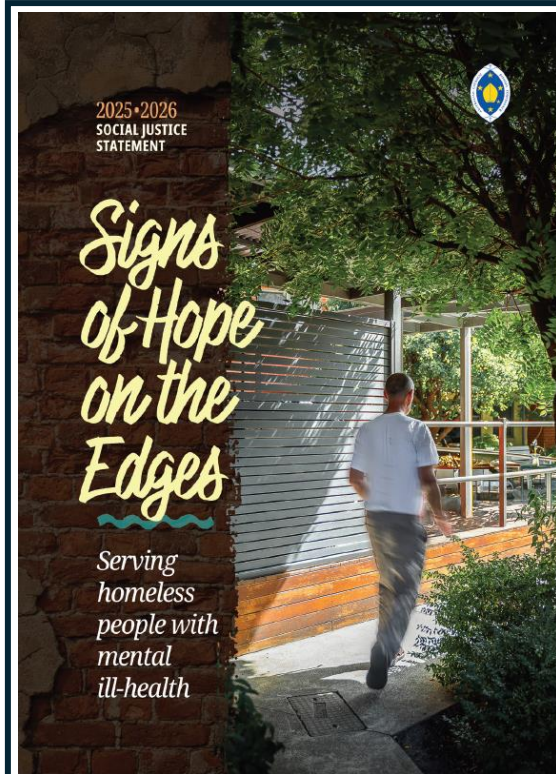
The poster features a blue background with a white cross logo in the top left corner. Below the logo is a colorful illustration of a diverse group of people, including adults and children, holding hands and smiling. The main text, 'Canteen Volunteers Needed', is in a large, bold, white serif font. Below this, in a smaller white sans-serif font, is the text: 'We urgently need canteen volunteers for our canteen. If you are Mum, Dad, Step Mum, Step Dad, Grandparents, carers, family friends we need you! Lunch is provided and you will meet lovely new friends.' At the bottom left, it says 'You will need to scan this QR code to complete the Volunteer form.' with a red arrow pointing to a QR code on the right. At the very bottom, there is a dark blue bar with the text 'More information' and a phone icon followed by the number '65 789 600'.

## **Season of Creation Workshop**

**Graced Encounters in the Community of Creation: Cultivating Hope in Action** 10 September, 3:30pm or 6pm

Join Presenter, Dr Ann-Maree O'Beirne RSM for a Season of Creation Workshop. With a focus on the Ignatian motif of "finding God in all things," this workshop will explore the wisdom of living our lives through a lens of grace that generates hope for all in our community of creation. Choose from one of two sessions as we take time to discover how God is present in all of creation as experienced in our everyday lives.

Register: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/graced-encounters-in-the-community-of-creation-cultivating-hope-in-action/>



This year, the Australian Catholic Bishops invite us to reflect on Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill Health.

*"Let us continue to check in on our neighbours, open our hearts to the marginalised, and give generously where we can. Even what seems like the smallest act may offer great comfort and hope to someone facing hardship."* - Bishop Michael Kennedy. (See the noticeboard for more from Bishop Michael)

Read the full statement:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026>

As we consider this call to serve, we encourage you to support CatholicCare Hunter-Manning's **Make a Difference Appeal**:

<https://www.mycase.com.au/makeadifference2025>

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Family ties

In the ancient world, and particularly in Jewish culture, family meant everything. One's identity was completely tied up with family. Families absolutely depended on one another for survival and for personal identity. Young men were identified by who their father was. Women quite literally 'belonged' to their father or husband. The entire fabric of society and tradition was held together by extended families. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures.

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Turning point

As we've seen over the last few weeks, chapter 12 of the gospel of Luke presents a collection of sayings by Jesus exhorting his followers to take up his message fearlessly and assuring them that if they do so then God will protect them – even in the hardest of times. The chapter captures what must have been a period of frustration for Jesus in his ministry: he has been preaching and performing miracles, yet his followers don't seem to understand his purpose. The chapter has an urgency and a sharpness of tone that reflect the frustration of Jesus at this mid-point in the gospel.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Speaking a hard message

Today's gospel reminds us that the message of Christianity is not always a popular one. Sometimes we are called upon to speak a hard message; a challenging message; a confronting message. The message of the gospel frequently confronts our popular culture and accepted social practice. It often contradicts the expedient decisions of our political leaders. There is a responsibility on us to speak the hard message of the gospel even at the risk of unpopularity and even in the face of threat. The Christian heroes of our time are those who call leaders to measure up to the demands of the gospel.

## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



choose  
disciples  
divide  
earth  
father  
fire  
five  
hard  
mother  
over  
same  
test

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