

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

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

**24 August 2025**

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 66:18-21**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

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

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

**(R.) Go out to all the world  
and tell the Good News.**

O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples! **(R.)**

Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**John 14:6**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Luke 13:22-30**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

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



**REFLECTION BY MICHAEL TATE**

***Can the Dalai Lama be saved?***

'[People] from east and west, north and south . . . will feast in the Kingdom of God.' Amongst those people, will there be Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, atheists? The surprising answer of Catholic Christianity is: 'Yes, but always through the working of the Holy Spirit of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who can prompt the heart of *any* person *anywhere* at *any* time with divine grace so that that person strives to lead a life of compassion and justice and not harming innocent creatures.' Obviously, this work of the Holy Spirit could encompass millions if not billions of people who have never heard the Gospel.

If the slogan: 'No salvation outside the Church' is taken to mean no-one can be saved unless he/she is a baptised member of the Catholic Church then it is a heresy explicitly condemned by Popes.

Nevertheless, we must pray and work for the conversion of all people so that they might have the advantage of all the aids of Word and Sacrament which we draw on as direction and strength on our journey towards the destiny which God desires for each one of us.

We could pause for a moment to acknowledge the boundless mercy of God, but also praying that all peoples might share our privilege of participating in that Holy Communion which is the foretaste of the banquet prophesied by Jesus in today's Gospel.

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<p><b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.</p> <p><b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.</p>	<p><b>We remember in our prayers:</b></p> <p><b>Sick:</b> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Dulcie Maynard, Anne McAleer, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Marianne Reynolds, 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> Riley Wells (Greta).</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Ron Cox, Paul Banister, Kate Roberts, Agnes Thomas.</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></p> <p>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C</p> <p><b>1st Reading:</b> Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29</p> <p><b>2nd Reading:</b> Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24</p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 14:1, 7-14</p>	
<p><b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b></p> <p>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</p>	

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Priest	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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>			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
St. Catherine's Catholic College		<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	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		<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Bora</i>	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 31 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	26 August 2025 J Woolley
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	<b>SCAE Leader reqd</b> L Ehlers	C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	M Stowe <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham Kevin M	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	C Spiteri	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	A Skardon	
<b>Offertory</b>	K Jones K Jones	D Clarke J Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J Cowley C Becus	Kevin M Jonathon M	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	S Purdon		M Alsleben	<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.*

WEEKLY MASS DIARY						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>25 August</b> St Louis St Joseph Calasanz	<b>26 August</b>	<b>27 August</b> St Monica	<b>28 August</b> St Augustine	<b>29 August</b> Passion of St John the Baptist	<b>30 August</b>	<b>31 August</b> TWENTY-SECOND 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>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton (SCCC Year 10, Year 6 and 1)	<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>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> Mercy Sisters 150 Anniversary <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>7.30am</u> <b>Rosary Park</b> <b>Staff Mass</b>  <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>SCAE</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 on Sunday 21 September 2025 at 4pm in St Patrick's with Bishop Michael Kennedy. All parishioners are invited to support the children in celebrating their faith journey. 5pm Mass on 21 September will be cancelled due to this celebration.

## **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.

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 this 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/>

## **Singleton Catholic Cemetery**

The gates at Singleton Catholic Cemetery, Queen Street, Singleton will now be open all day, every day (24 hours a day). Visitors are asked to be very careful when entering the cemetery during wet weather and to not use the grassed areas as turnaround areas in their vehicles. If you have any concerns about the cemetery or wish to assist with maintaining the grounds, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Ann Keegan and Kay Ingold who recently completed the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Introductory course. Kay and Ann are both serving in the Bereavement Team ministry in the Branxton Parish and this course will assist them when speaking with families, helping them to organise their loved one's funerals. The CPE Introductory Course is conducted over five days (40 hours) and is run by the Hunter CPE Centre at Mackillop Parish Centre, Charlestown, and other locations in the Diocese. If you are interested in completing this course, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

## **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>

## **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/DDQQC>

## **Congratulations to Reverend Kimbalee Hodges**

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Reverend Kimbalee Hodges on her commissioning as Rector of the Anglican Parish of Singleton! The Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton wish her all the best as she begins her ministry here.

Reverend Kimbalee will be commissioned on Tuesday 26 August at 6pm by Assistant Bishop, The Right Reverend Sonia Roulston, in All Saints Church, Singleton.

**Mass will not be said on Tuesday evening as Fr Thomas will be attending this special occasion.**

## **Season of Creation Workshop**

**Graced Encounters in the Community of Creation: Cultivating Hope in Action**

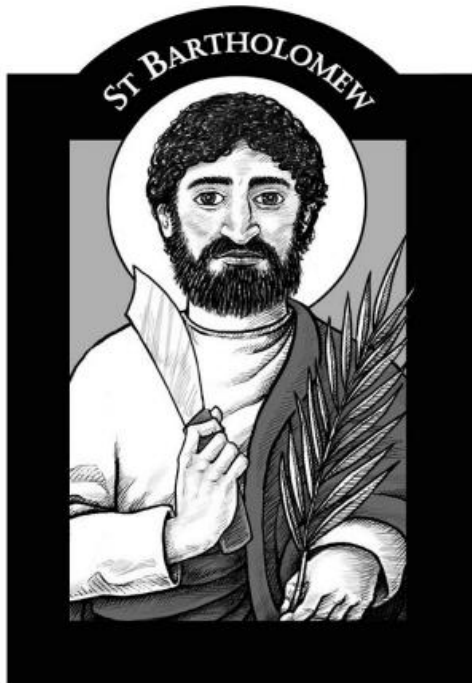
10 September, 3:30pm or 6pm

St John the Baptist Oratory, Maitland

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/>





**S**t Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles, but very little is known about him. Scholars believe that he was the man known as Nathanael, who was introduced to Jesus by St Philip. In the synoptic Gospels he is named Bartholomew, which means "son of Tolmai". Some believe that he may have preached in India, where a Hebrew copy of Matthew's Gospel was found – believed to have been left by Bartholomew. He is also believed to have preached in Armenia where he was martyred.



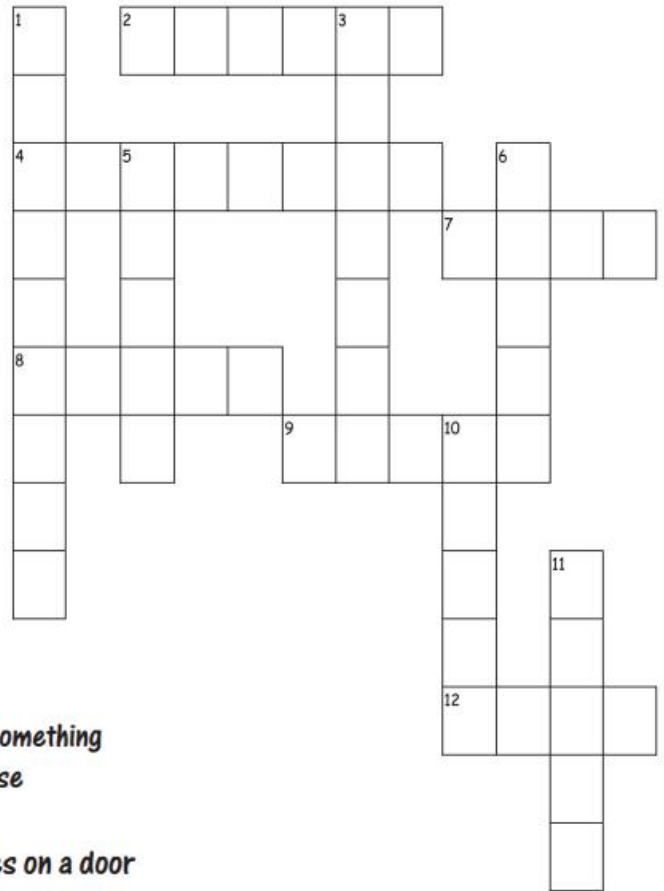
# Crossword

## Across

- 2: thin, not wide  
4: people who speak on behalf of God  
7: cry  
8: we use these to chew our food  
9: a celebration with food and drink  
12: we open this to go inside

## Down

- 1: significant  
3: not inside  
5: a person who owns something  
6: less than anything else  
10: rescued  
11: to rap your knuckles on a door



Thank you!

Well done to St Brigid's Parishioners who donated in Brantton and Greta, raising \$775 for the Vinnies Winter Appeal.



Write or draw someone who is not considered an important person. Then fill in the missing letters.

The o\_es wh\_ are \_ow  
le\_t im\_rt\_nt wi\_  
be th\_ mo\_t i\_po\_tan\_.