

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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Social Justice Sunday

31 August 2025

First Reading Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him.

The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R. v.11

**(R.) God, in your goodness,
you have made a home for the poor.**

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **(R.)**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **(R.)**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the

supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

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



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

Pope Leo encourages the Church's bishops to live 'a life of evangelical poverty'. As the pope explained in a jubilee meditation, each bishop should exhibit 'a simple, sober and generous lifestyle, dignified and at the same time suited to the conditions of the majority of his people.'

'The poor must find in him a father and a brother,' the pope continued, 'and never feel uncomfortable in meeting him or entering his home. In his personal life, he must be detached from the pursuit of wealth and from forms of favoritism based on money or power. The bishop must never forget that, like Jesus, he has been anointed with the Holy Spirit and sent to bring good news to the poor (cf. Lk 4:18).'

As we reflect on this week's Gospel we might ask ourselves how these words apply to each one of us too. Are we called to rise above others, or to stand with them? Are we bringers of hope in our own time and place?

And in a particular way we might also pray for our bishops, that they may be given the grace to heed the pope's advice and follow Christ's commission. May we also have the grace to support them in turn when they do.

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: 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. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Nora Hewett. Anniversaries: Margaret Brooker, Paul Deaves, Piet Janssen, John McAleer, Drusilla Nowlan, Dot Spencer. 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.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18 2nd Reading: Philemon 21-17:Phlm 9-10, 12-17 Gospel: Luke 14:25-33	
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	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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)			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College		<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School		<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Bora</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 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	2 September 2025 J Brackenrig
Commentator		D Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	M Thomas S Purdon	L Harrison	E Thomas J Tindale	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Kevin M	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	C Anderson L Harrison	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Kevin M Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk		M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Borg	

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
1 September World Day of Prayer for Creation	2 September	3 September St Gregory the Great	4 September	5 September	6 September	7 September TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am SCAE 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.50am Rosary 8.15am 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.

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.

150th 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 celebrated this Sunday 31 August 2025 at 10am on 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>

Spiritual Renewal Ministry

We are blessed to announce that Br. Savy Joseph, an international speaker, will be ministering at St Patrick's Church, Singleton on Monday, 1 September, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The evening will begin with praise and worship, followed by a powerful talk on "Healing and Freedom in Christ." Everyone is warmly invited to come, bring family and friends, and experience this special time of renewal and blessing.

Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 6 September 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for Sharon Hedley and all those whose anniversaries occur in September.

Work within our Churches

During this last week, the audio-visual equipment in St Patrick's Church, Singleton was upgraded. This work is thanks in part to a generous bequest from one of our parishioners.

On Thursday 4 September, the carpets will be cleaned in St Patrick's Church, Singleton from 8.30am.

The carpet in St Brigid's Church, Branxton will be replaced over Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Mass will not be said on Thursday 4 September. This work is also thanks to a generous parishioner who left a bequest in her will.

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.

Branxton Catholic Cemetery

Please be aware that there are currently Plovers nesting in the grounds of the Branxton Catholic Cemetery. They will swoop if they feel threatened, so maybe wear a hat when visiting the cemetery.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

Everyone is invited to join the St Brigid's Caritas group for their monthly lunch at Miller Park Hotel on Friday 12 September, 12pm.

Australia Needs Fatima – Save the Date

Save the date for the 2025 Public Rosary on Saturday 11 October from 5.30pm. We will gather around the statue of Mary in the old St Brigid's School from 5.30pm. The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (October 13, 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer.

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 and show commences at 6.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDQQC>

26th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Please join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Federation of P&F Associations for the 26th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning on Wednesday 3 September at 5pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral will be a celebration of inclusion and diversity, where everyone's unique, God-given gifts will be honoured. All members of our community are welcome, with movement and noise embraced as part of our shared experience. After Mass, please stay and join us for supper. RSVP is not required.

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 the two sessions Register at:

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

OUR HISTORY



**St Catherine's
Catholic College
Singleton**

1844

Patriarchal district of Singleton established with the first resident priest

1866

Diocese of Maitland officially established

1875

Singleton Catholics and the children of the certified denominational school (St Xavier's) welcomed 10 Sisters of Mercy arrived from Ennis Ireland, establishing their first foundation, Mother M. Stanislaus Kenny as superior Singleton Convent became the mother house for the Mercy Order in the Diocese of Maitland.

St Catherine's Day and Boarding school established as 'Select School'. The Sisters lived in the former presbytery and a select school under the patronage of St Catherine of Siena was established

1877

Sisters care for 4 homeless girls

1895

Boarding School begins

1909

Opening of the Singleton Convent

1911

Blessing and Opening of the College Building

1913

College receives Registration which enables students to sit for leaving and Intermediate Certificates

1942

Singleton Army Base opened bringing an increase of population to the area

1960

Extensive building program

1964

Acquired building became McAuley Hall

1967

First Lay teachers in the school

1969

Substantial additions- Two story classroom block, two science rooms, four classrooms, assembly hall, administration facilities

1974

Beginning of co-educational high school with intake of boys in Year 7

1987

First lay Principal, Mr Ken Rodwell

1993

Last Mercy Sister on staff, Sr. Eva Hassett

2001

Formation of St Catherine's Catholic College, Kindergarten to Year 12 combining three school entities- St Catherine's College, St Francis Xavier's Primary School and the Infant's School

2003

All new school buildings

2004

Construction and refurbishment of classrooms

2007

Refurbishment of classrooms and administration facilities, upgrade of electrical reticulation

2009

Construction and refurbishment of classrooms. Trade Training Centre established and the purchase of school farm

2012

All K-12 classes located on one site, St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton

2025

Celebrating 150 Years