

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

7 September 2025

First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure and
our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the
soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the
teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is
on earth, laborious to know what lies within
our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the
heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt
it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent
your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth
been straightened and men been taught
what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

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

Philemon 12-17: Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter to St Paul to Philemon.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and,
what is more, still a prisoner of Christ
Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of
mine, whose father I became while wearing
these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am
sending him back to you, and with him – I
could say – a part of my own self. I should

have liked to keep him with me; he could
have been a substitute for you, to help me
while I am in the chains that the Good
News has brought me. However, I did not
want to do anything without your consent;
it would have been forcing your act of
kindness, which should be spontaneous. I
know you have been deprived of Onesimus
for a time, but it was only so that you could
have him back for ever, not as a slave any
more, but something much better than a
slave, a dear brother; especially dear to
me, but how much more to you, as a blood-
brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So
if all that we have in common means
anything to you, welcome him as you would
me.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!**

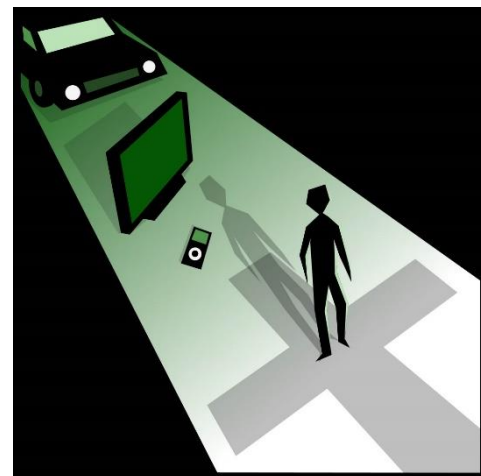
Gospel Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his
way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If
any man comes to me without hating his
father, mother, wife, children, brothers,
sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot
be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry
his cross and come after me cannot be my
disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending
to build a tower, would not first sit down
and work out the cost to see if he had
enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid
the foundation and then found himself
unable to finish the work, the onlookers
would all start making fun of him and
saying, "Here is a man who started to build
and was unable to finish." Or again, what
king marching to war against another king
would not first sit down and consider
whether with ten thousand men he could
stand up to the other who advanced
against him with twenty thousand? If not,
then while the other king was still a long
way off, he would send envoys to sue for
peace. So in the same way, none of you
can be my disciple unless he gives up all
his possessions.'

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



**SEASON OF CREATION
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

A common thread that runs through this
week's readings is the passing of time. We
are told that God's intentions transcend
and outlast ours, that our lives are short
and our bodies dust. But none of this is
cause for worry so much as a reality check,
a reminder that we are all Created Beings
living within a wider Creation. An elderly St
Paul speaks of deprivation 'for a time'
before turning his attention to human
relationships and eternal hopes, reminding
us that the Resurrection for which we hope
is Creation renewed in Communion in
Christ.

While we are celebrating the Season of
Creation, such Scripture therefore also
reminds us that Creation's 'season' is
eternal. This helps us make sense of this
week's seemingly troubling Gospel
passage where Jesus speaks of 'hating'
loved ones, even 'hating' our own lives,
and His insistence that we give up all our
possessions. Jesus' point is that our
relationships with people and things
should be part of a bigger, longer picture,
and that our approach towards Creation
should not be possessive. Your mother is
God's Creation. Your life is God's. Your
possessions really belong to God. Which
then begs the question: Do you approach
Creation unselfishly?

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Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten
Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion
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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.	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. Baptisms: Lily Fernance (Branxton). Recently Deceased: Leslie 'Brim' Ryan. Anniversaries: Reverend John Kelley, Rex Anderson, Harry Dunn, Kathy Dunn, Brian Stocks. 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 The Exaltation of the Cross 1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel: John 3:13-17	
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 Borg</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 14 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	9 September 2025 J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Ehlers	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher S Stafa	K Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Ehlers	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	Joan Janette	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	C Trunk		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
8 September <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9 September <i>St Peter Claver</i>	10 September	11 September	12 September <i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>	13 September <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	14 September PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
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 (SCCC Years 10, 2 and 3 at Mass)	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<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> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS (Clergy Training)		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> SCAE 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

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

On 14 September we observe Perpetual Day of Remembrance. This day is a public acknowledgement of the deep harm caused by the Church in the past, particularly the pain and suffering endured by survivors of abuse, their families, and those that have been lost. It is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to remembering what happened so as not to allow those things to be repeated. Our Parish will commemorate this day in our masses on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Seniors group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 9 September from 12pm in the Albion Hotel. It's a great opportunity to enjoy lunch and conversation with other seniors from the area. We hope to see you there!

Patrick's Women's Guild

St Patrick's Women's Guild will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday 10 September from 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights. New members most welcome.

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.

Weekday Mass and Novena Leaders

A new *Weekday Mass Roster* for St Patrick's Singleton has been produced. Volunteers are needed for reading the Liturgy of the Word and Prayer of the Faithful during Mass Monday to Saturday. If you put your name down and can't make your rostered day, there will always be someone there to cover.

The *Novena Roster* for Saturday mornings at St Patrick's Singleton needs some new Leaders. If you are interested in putting your name on the roster, please call the Parish Office or speak with Frieda.

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.

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.

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/>

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained

Join us for Symbolon, a beautiful journey into the heart of the Catholic faith. Starting Wednesday 10 September and running every Wednesday evening until 19 November, 6:30–8:30pm, at the Mary of the Cross Function Centre, 7 Milson St, Charlestown. Light refreshments provided | Free event – open to all | A wonderful opportunity to deepen your understanding of the faith, whether you are new to the Church, returning, or seeking to grow in discipleship. Come, learn, share, and be inspired! More details on the noticeboard.

Caritas - Season of Creation

The Season of Creation's call for Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges.

This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

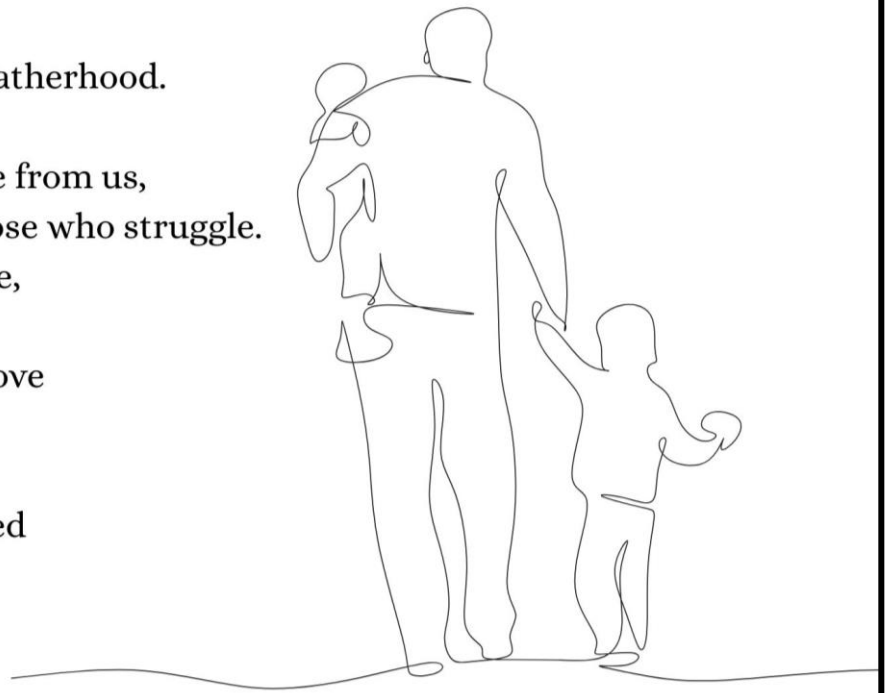
- signing the Turn Debt into Hope petition - caritas.org.au/debt
- committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a Catholic Earthcare Household – www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/

Hunter Homeshare – Sharing Homes, Enriching Lives

Are you willing to offer someone the dignity and security of a safe and welcoming place to live by sharing your home? In return your life could be enriched through companionship, connection and some practical help. Hunter Homeshare is a local initiative that bridges the gap between compassionate homeowners and those seeking a safe home. For more information, visit www.embracepp.org.au/projects/hunter-homeshare

Happy Father's Day

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of fatherhood.
We pray for all fathers,
those present and those gone from us,
those who are strong and those who struggle.
Grant them wisdom, patience,
strength, and tenderness.
May their lives reflect your love
and care for their children,
and may they know
how deeply they are cherished
by You and their families.
In Jesus' name,
Amen



Two young saints will be canonized together on 7 September 2025 by Pope Leo XIV



Pier Giorgio Frassati, TOSD (6 April 1901 – 4 July 1925) was an Italian Catholic activist and a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic. He was dedicated to social justice issues and joined several charitable organizations, including Catholic Action and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, to better aid the poor and less fortunate living in his hometown of Turin; he put his own pious beliefs into practice to cater to their needs and was best known for his devotion and amiable character. Pope John Paul II beatified Frassati in May 1990 and dubbed him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes".

Carlo Acutis (3 May 1991–12 October 2006) was a British-born Italian student celebrated for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion. Born in London and raised in Milan, he created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions. Diagnosed with leukemia, he died at age fifteen. Beatified by the Catholic Church in 2020, he is regarded as a model for young believers. Acutis is often referred to as the "first millennial saint". To learn more about Carlo Acutis pick up the small card at the back of the church.