

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

## Exaltation of the Holy Cross

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance

**14 September 2025**

### First Reading

**Numbers 21:4-9**

*A reading from the book of Numbers.*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7**

**(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**

When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**

But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**

Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Philippians 2:6-11**

*A reading from the letter to St Paul to the Philippians.*

The state of Jesus was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Psalm 118:135**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!**

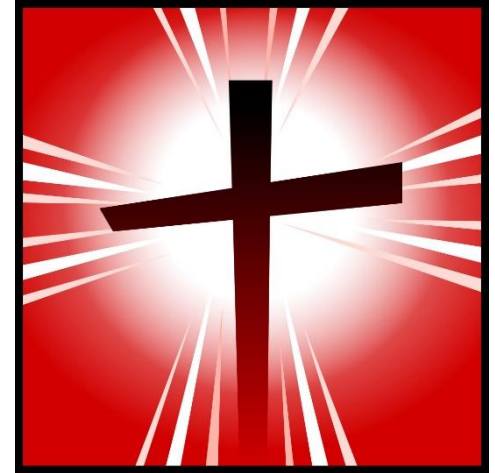
### Gospel

**John 3:13-17**

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
'No one has gone up to heaven  
except the one who came down from heaven,  
the Son of Man who is in heaven;  
and the Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.'

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



### ODE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST BY FIONA DUQUE

*Presider: On this day of Perpetual Day of Remembrance, let us stand and together we pray:*

Come,  
let us walk in the Light of the Lord.  
Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come,  
let us bring light from the darkness.  
Let us make good come from evil  
and find sweet in the bitter.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come,  
let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the clouds,  
from the darkness and distress.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come,  
let us walk with our brothers and sisters,  
those who have walked in darkness.  
Let them see the great Light of God  
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

*Composed in the spirit of the Prophet Isaiah by  
Fiona Duque © 2019, 2025 Diocese of  
Maitland-Newcastle. All rights reserved. Used  
with permission within the Diocese of Maitland-  
Newcastle*

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

<p><b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.</p> <p><b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.</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>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C <b>1st Reading:</b> Amos 8:4-7 <b>2nd Reading:</b> 1 Timothy 2:1-8 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 16:1-13</p>	<p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Margaret Allen, George Brodbeck, Des Dagg.</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>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 Administrator	<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 Bora</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 21 SEPTEMBER 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	16 September G McMillan C Langford
<b>Commentator</b>		L Harrison	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's Staff	
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa M Thomas	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	St Catherine's Staff	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	St Catherine's Staff	
<b>Offertory</b>	K Jones K Jones	Cecilia Helena	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's Staff	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	S Purdon		M Alsleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's Staff	

*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>15 September</b> <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<b>16 September</b> <i>St Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>	<b>17 September</b> <i>St Robert Bellarmine</i> <i>St Hildegard of Bingen</i>	<b>18 September</b>	<b>19 September</b> <i>St Januarius</i>	<b>20 September</b> <i>St Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions</i>	<b>21 September</b> <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C</i>
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton (SCCC Yrs 4 & 5 at Mass)  <u>5.30pm</u> CONFIRMATION PRACTICE	<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>10.00m</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>4.00pm</u> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton (Rosary Park Yrs Kinder, 2 & 5 at Mass)		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <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.

## **Perpetual Day of Remembrance – 14 September**

Perpetual Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for our whole faith community to come together in prayer and remembrance – honouring survivors, acknowledging the wrongs of the past, and renewing our commitment to building a Church that is safe and life-giving for all.

Each year in September, our Diocese marks the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. This day stands as a solemn commitment to truth, healing, and accountability. It was established in Maitland-Newcastle as a local, enduring response to the failures of the Church to protect children and the ongoing pain of survivors. Thank you for joining us in prayer.

## **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 next 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.**

## **Parish Office Hours**

Parish Office will be OPEN Monday 15 September, CLOSED Wednesday 17 September, OPEN Monday 22 September, CLOSED Thursday 25 September.

## **Weekday Mass Roster Singleton**

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.

## **Novena Roster Singleton**

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

## **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.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025

WE ARE A  
SAFE, HOPE-FILLED  
AND WELCOMING  
CHURCH



## **Safeguarding Sunday – 14 September**

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

## **Australian Catholic Youth Festival**

This is the final week for young people 15 - 25 years to join Bishop Michael for ACYF25 - a national gathering of Catholic youth. Do you have a grandchild that could join us?

Get in contact with us now if you are needing further financial support. Registration closes 19 September. The experience provides young people an opportunity to come together and connect whilst deepening their faith and relationship with Jesus. For more information and to register visit <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/australian-catholic-youth-festival/>

## **Stella Maris and Mission to Seafarers**

Every ship that comes into port and is visited by the Stella Maris team and receives a care package. What we are low on right now is, Men's Toiletries. From next month, the volunteers at the centre will begin packing the gift bags for seafarer Christmas hampers. See the flyer for items that can be donated for out seafarers. Every donation makes a difference, and your generosity is greatly appreciated. See the noticeboard for more items you can donate.

## **Discover Palms Volunteering**

Develop community self-reliance and create lasting change! Discover Palms International Volunteering online in this special session where you'll chat with past Palms volunteers and hear how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities. Explore our unique opportunities and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

**Venue:** Online - Scan the QR or go to [www.palms.org.au/events](http://www.palms.org.au/events)

**Date:** Thursday 30 October 2025 7pm – 8.30pm AEDT

**More Info:** 02 9560 5333 | [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)







# Our commitment



As the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle I expect us all to be attentive to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable adult in everything we do in the name of the Church. Each one of us is responsible to ensure we are aware of the signs of abuse, that we know how to respond to a disclosure of abuse and we know how to report our concerns. Most importantly, I require every worker in the Diocese to be prepared, should the situation ever arise, to call out the unsafe or abusive behaviour of colleagues and workmates. The conduct we walk past is the conduct we condone.

– MOST REV BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY

## THE DIOCESE IS COMMITTED TO:

- ▶ Fostering communities of safeguarding, including open and respectful communication about issues of safeguarding with individuals, families and groups
- ▶ Upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults and empowering them to have their voices heard
- ▶ Training all workers in safeguarding knowledge and skills including indicators of abuse, supporting people to disclose and report abuse
- ▶ Working with statutory authorities to notify alleged abuse and actively support them to investigate those allegations
- ▶ Developing our risk assessment and management systems for all diocesan activities and personnel
- ▶ Developing the breadth and depth of our auditing and compliance regimes
- ▶ Improving our compliance with the NSW Child Safe Standards and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.