

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 October 2025

First Reading

Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 120. R. v.2

**(R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **(R.)**

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **(R.)**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **(R.)**

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter to St Paul to Timothy.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of
our heart.
Alleluia!**

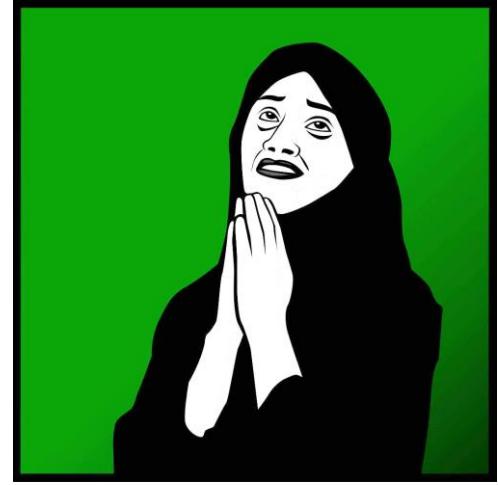
Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."' And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

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



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

Justice, Pope Leo says, 'cannot be reduced to the mere application of the law or the work of judges, nor limited to procedural aspects.' As the Pope points out, 'the persistence of the widow who urges the judge to recover his sense of justice' speaks to the real meaning of the concept. Justice means more than the keeping or enforcing of rules.

Because justice is a cardinal virtue, the Pope reminds us, it should always inform and guide our consciences and actions. 'When justice is exercised,' he says, 'one places oneself at the service of individuals, society and the state, with full and unwavering dedication.'

Referring to 'the deep desire for justice that is present in each of us, the thirst for justice that is the key instrument for building the common good in every human society,' the Pope encourages us to consider what justice demands with respect to individual dignity and communal relationships. True justice, he affirms, 'establishes a circularity of social relations, which places the value of every human being at its core.'

For Christians, therefore, justice cannot be selfish or dismissive. Rather, justice should positively orient our relations with each other. 'As we know,' the Pope continues, 'justice becomes concrete when it reaches out to others, when each person is given their due, until equality in dignity and opportunity among human beings is achieved.'

[Quotes from Address for the Jubilee of Justice, 20 September 2025:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/september/documents/20250920-giubileo-operatori-justizia.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.	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, Jenna Talbot, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Baptisms: Aaron Perrett (Branxton). Elka Cain, Heidi Cain and Finn Cain (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God. Recently Deceased: Peter Frost (Singleton 7 Nov 2025, 11am). Anniversaries: Margaret Dunn, Willena Graham, Monica Kenna, Frank McAleer, Evelyn Meyn, Ian Searston, Victor Wilcher. 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 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 1st Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Gospel: Luke 18:9-14	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>	

PARISH CONTACTS				
Parish Administrator	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au	
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	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	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330		
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke		
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook		
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)				
Branxton	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335		
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334		
Schools in our Parishes				
St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mr David Crawford	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au	
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Mr Ashley Borg	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au	

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		M McKenzie	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	S Purdon C Trunk	K Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Saptitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		M McKenzie	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	Helena Norma	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEERS REQ'D	VOLUNTEERS REQ'D	
Extraordinary Minister	P Conroy	N/A	J Dunn	T Cochrane	C Tysoe	

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
20 October	21 October	22 October <i>St John Paul II</i>	23 October <i>St John of Capistrano</i>	24 October <i>St Anthony Claret</i>	25 October	26 October 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 6.00pm SCAE Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00m SCAE 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Patrick's 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 contact the Parish Office for a Parish Welcome Pack and New Member Form.

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.

Parish Changes

Mass will not be said on Monday 20 October and as Fr Thomas will be attending Council of Priests Meeting on Friday 24 October 2025, Mass will not be said in Singleton that day.

Ordination of Deacon Anton Perera to the Priesthood

The Most Reverend Michael Kennedy and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle cordially invite the People of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to the priesthood ordination of **Deacon Anton Suranga Perera** by Most Reverend Michael Kennedy on Saturday 8 November 2025 at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. Refreshments will be served in the Southern Cross Hall following the ceremony.

Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 9 November 2025 at 9.30am in St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown.

November – Month of the Holy Souls

In November we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us, family, and friends. However, it does not end there for we are asked also to pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. During November, Mass will be offered for those whose names have been written on the special “November Mass Envelopes”. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends clearly and place them in either collection basket during Mass. **November Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the back of all churches.**

November All Souls Mass Greta

All Holy Souls and those who have died this year will be remembered during Mass on Sunday 2 November at 8.15am at St Catherine's Church, Greta. There will be a chance for those in attendance to come forward and light a candle in remembrance. Everyone is then invited to Morning tea following Mass.

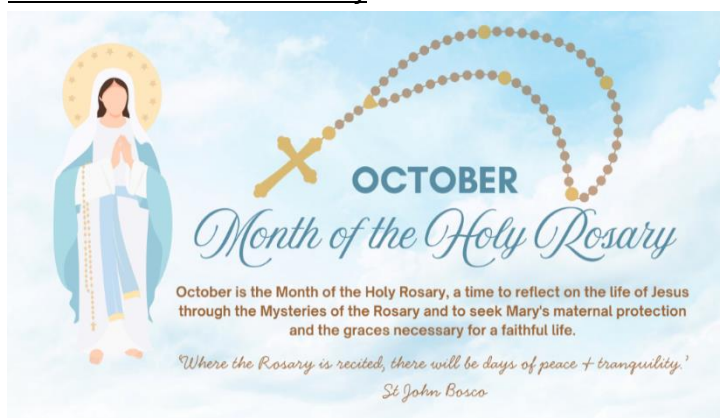
Red November Appeal

During the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites everyone in Australia and New Zealand to remember, pray for, and support Christians who suffer persecution for their faith. Aid to the Church in Need's Red November Appeal raises vital funds to support suffering and persecuted Christians around the world. Your help can change the lives of those who need it the most. Please make a generous offering today. <https://aidtochurch.org/rednovemberappeal>

That Catholic Shop – Christmas Catalogue

Why not start your Christmas shopping now? Catalogues from *That Catholic Shop* are at the back of each church. The proceeds of each purchase assist the work of *Aid to the Church in Need*. www.thatcatholicshop.com

October – Month of the Rosary



To celebrate the Month of the Holy Rosary, Rosary Beads are available to purchase from the Parish Office. A selection of rosary beads are available in clear crystal, white, black and wood (no container) for \$1.50. To purchase, please contact the office or place money in an envelope on the collection plate, clearly marked with your name and type of beads.

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 - go to www.palms.org.au/events

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

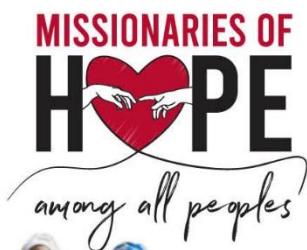
More Info: 02 9560 5333 | palms@palms.org.au

Touching the Veil: When life brings you close to death

As we prepare to celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day, we invite you to hear the story of one person's journey “through the valley of the shadow of death” and back into the light of life. We invite you to join us at this free library event and listen to Brendon's story. This Human Library will inspire you to wonder, reflect and ask the questions that spark your imagination or move your soul. Friday 31 October, 10am-12pm at the Diocesan Resource Centre, Cnr Parry and Tudor Sts, Hamilton. Go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/> for more information and registration.

A Night with Our Orthodox Brothers and Sisters

Join us for an enriching evening of encounter and dialogue as we learn from our Orthodox brothers and sisters. Together, we will deepen our appreciation of the treasures of the Christian East: its beauty, its spirituality, and its witness of faith across centuries. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, “*The contribution that the Christian East can offer us today is immense! We have a great need to recover the sense of mystery that remains alive in your liturgies... liturgies that sing of the beauty of salvation and evoke a sense of wonder at how God's majesty embraces our human frailty.*” The Holy Father has also spoken of synodality as a way of walking together that builds bridges of communion and nurtures authentic participation. “*Synodality is a style, an attitude that helps us to be Church by promoting authentic experiences of participation and communion... You are the body entrusted with gathering these fruits and engaging in forward-looking reflection.*” This evening offers a unique opportunity to listen, learn, and celebrate traditions of spirituality that are “ancient yet ever new.” Come and be inspired by the richness of the Christian East, and join us in building unity through dialogue, prayer, and shared witness. Wednesday 5 November, 6-7.30pm at the Diocesan Resource Centre, cnr Parry and Tudor Sts, Hamilton. Go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/> for more information and registration.



We would like to thank you for your generosity supporting the Church in Zambia and missionaries like Sr Jane and Kayula.

Thanks to your kindness, women like Sharon will have the skills to provide for their families, and mothers like Grace can give birth with dignity. Your gift will also support a variety of Church programs around the world.

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at catholicmission.org.au/mission. Your action will make a profound change on people's lives.



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MISSION**

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A Message from His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2025

Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples

For World Mission Day in the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis reminds every baptized Christian of our fundamental vocation: to be **messengers and builders of hope** in the footsteps of Christ. This message is central to the Jubilee Year, which has "hope" at its heart.

Key Themes and the Call to Mission:

1. **Christ the Model:** Jesus is the supreme Missionary of hope, sent by the Father to bring healing and comfort. We are called to follow His example by becoming **signs and messengers of hope** in every place and circumstance.
2. **Serving with Compassion:** In a world marked by loneliness, indifference, and human crisis, Christian communities must be **harbingers of a new humanity**. We are urged to focus special attention on the **poorest, sick, elderly, and excluded**, serving them with God's "style": **closeness, compassion, and tenderness**.
3. **Prayer and Action:** Prayer is the primary missionary activity and the "first strength of hope." It keeps the spark of hope alive, allowing it to become a great fire that inspires concrete actions and gestures.
4. **Communitarian Mission:** Evangelization is a community effort. Pope Francis asks all of us—children, young, adults, and elderly—to participate actively in the Church's mission through our **witness of life, prayer, sacrifices, and generosity**.

We are a "springtime people" ready to share the hope of Christ's Resurrection.

Let us turn to Mary, Mother of Hope, as we work to make Christ's hope shine forth in every corner of the earth.

Summarised from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 19 October 2025. Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January 2025, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle. Copyright © Dicastery for Communication.