

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C

23 November 2025

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **(R.)**

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **(R.)**

Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead,

so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

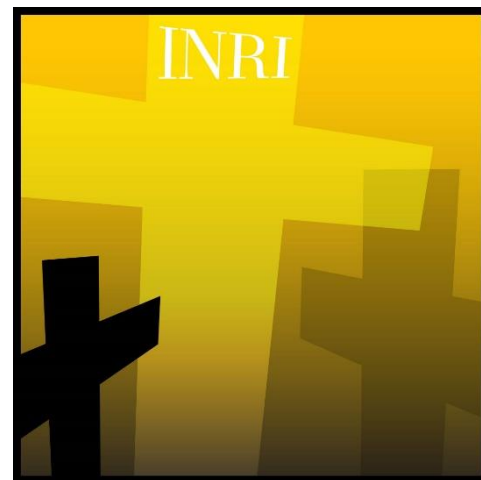
**Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

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



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'When the Church bends down to break the new chains that bind the poor,' Pope Leo says, 'she becomes a paschal sign.' And, he also says, 'when the Church bends down to care for the poor, she assumes her highest posture.'

The Church, the Pope makes clear, has constantly adapted to changing circumstances, bringing Christ to the here and now. Education plays an important part in this stream of history. As he says, 'since ancient times, Christians have understood that knowledge liberates, gives dignity, and brings us closer to the truth.' Even children and criminals can come to know Christ, as scripture makes clear.

The Pope also speaks of how 'teaching the poor was an act of justice and faith.' Indeed, the Church's teaching mission remains 'a service to the Kingdom of God.'

To that end, the Church has a duty to teach and live its mission of justice and service. That especially includes welcoming the stranger. As the Pope says, 'the Church has always recognised in migrants a living presence of the Lord.'

Similarly, with the poor. 'It is in them', the Pope notes, 'that the church rediscovers her call to show her most authentic self.' The poor are 'not only objects of our compassion,' he adds, 'but teachers of the Gospel.'

[Quotes from Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, 4 October 2025: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Sullivan Hurn, Dulcie Maynard, Anne McAleer, Fleur McAlister, 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. Recently Deceased: Christopher Collins (Branxton Mon 24/11, 10am). Anniversaries: 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 First Sunday of Advent, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14 Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44	
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	<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)				
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 30 NOVEMBER 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	J Woolley
Commentator		D Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham Kevin M	
Prayers		D Clarke	C Spiteri	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Offertory	S McAlister S Purdon	Helena Norma	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	J Cowley C Becus	Kevin & Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister		N/A	M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
24 November <i>St Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions</i>	25 November <i>St Catherine of Alexandria</i>	26 November	27 November	28 November	29 November	30 November <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> SCAE <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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 Welcome Pack, 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.

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.**

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The group will then meet for their Christmas lunch on Friday 5 December. All are welcome and if attending you are asked to bring a Kris Kringle gift.

St Patrick's Parish Anniversary Mass

There will be no Anniversary Mass in Singleton for November due to the clash with All Saints Day. Anniversaries for November and December will be commemorated on Saturday 6 December at 9.20am.

Combined Churches of Singleton – Picnic Lunch

The churches of Singleton will come together for a BBQ Picnic Lunch on Sunday 30 November at Rose Point Park from 12pm. Everyone is welcome to come along! The Salvation Army will be providing a sausage sizzle, or you can BYO picnic, chairs and rugs.

Rosary Park Christmas Concert and Carnival

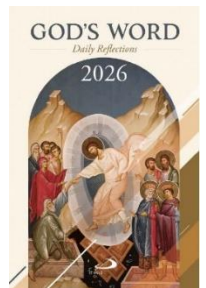
Families and friends are warmly invited to Rosary Park Catholic School's end of year Christmas Celebration! Join the fun on Thursday 4 December in the school playground from 5pm (gates open 4.45pm). At the gate you pay \$5 per adult and bring a picnic rug or chair to enjoy the concert. If you have a child at the school you can purchase a sausage sizzle via the Qkr! App or BYO picnic dinner! Drinks will be available for \$1 cash on the night and lots of market stalls. And don't forget your Christmas Cheer!

Commissioned in Hope Mass

If you've been inspired as a Pilgrim of Hope in 2025, you're invited to join Bishop Michael Kennedy on Christ the King Sunday, 23 November from 5pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, to celebrate our Jubilee Year blessings with a Diocesan Mass and witness the commissioning of 100 young people for their journey to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. All are welcome. Don't forget to bring your Pilgrim Passport and yourselves to receive a special Jubilee year memento. Enquiries mission@mn.catholic.org.au

God's Word 2026: Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. This edition was prepared for Australia and New Zealand and contains the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others.



- Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible
- Liturgical information of the day, including feasts and memorials of saints.
- Space to note down personal reflections, and important events.
- Produced in flexi-cover format with attractive colour designs.

To order, complete one of the marked envelopes available at the church, include your \$15.00 and place on the collection plate. Your copy will be sent to the church for you to collect. Copies can also be purchased from Parish Office. If you have taken an envelope, don't delay in returning it as copies are going fast.

The Promise: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2025



Embark on a spiritual journey of hope this Advent and Christmas with *The Promise: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2025* – a beautifully presented 88-page book of daily reflections designed to guide you from the beginning of Advent (30 November 2025) through to the Baptism of the Lord (11 January 2026). Each page offers profound insights through daily Scripture-based meditations and contemplative prayers that invite you to

recognise God's promise fulfilled in Christ and to live in joyful anticipation of his coming.

Available at each church for \$5.00. Please use the envelope inside the booklet to pay. Don't forget to return your money!

Praying Scripture – A Spiritual Approach

Lead by Wayne Caruana, come along on Saturday 29 November from 2.30pm for an afternoon where knowledge, understanding and love of the Scriptures will build your faith, and encourage personal prayer time to deepen and flourish. A comfortable and engaging hour of scripture, prayer and discussion in the Diocesan Resource Centre, Cnr Parry and Tudor Sts, Newcastle West. Our first scripture will be “Put out into the Deep” Lk 5: 1-11. The gathering is free. Bring pen, paper, and Bible. Contact Jan Jeffrey on 0423 050 568 to register and for more information.

Give Back this Christmas

This year Mission to Seafarers is once again taking donations for Christmas gift packs. The goal is to provide every member of crew who enters Newcastle Port a care pack in the week before Christmas. This might be the only present a seafarer receives for Christmas and any donation is greatly appreciated. For more information: Stella Maris Catholic Chaplain from Mission & Evangelisation - mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au

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>

November - Month of Holy Souls

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Leo Bendeich
Seth, Flo & Bob Crouch
Adrian Stafa
Members of the Bendeich Families
Members of the Howlett Family
Members of the Cantrall Family

Benjamin Mañacap
Ma Cristina Mañacap
Adolfo Marquez Sr
Avelino Marquez
Luisa Marquez
Jenny Pagador

Jenny Marquez
Talina Mañacap
Members of the Pacquipo family
Members of the Solon family



Hope Tree
Group

Hope Tree Project 29: Help Build a Home for Bharath Kumar

Our next Hope Tree Group project is to support **Mr. Singarapu Bharath Kumar**, aged 26, of Chinthakani Parish, Khammam Diocese, Telangana, India.

Five years ago, on his way home from work, a serious accident left Bharath completely bedridden. He has undergone more than 20 major surgeries.

He was the sole earner for his family. After the accident, his wife left him. Now, his elderly parents and grandmother struggle daily labouring in the fields, often forced to beg for money to cover Bharath's medicines and basic needs, while his father stays home to provide full-time care. They currently live in a temporary shed.

Construction had begun on a small, dignified house for them, using funds the local Sisters had been able to raise and a government grant, but the funds have now been exhausted.

URGENT NEED: ₹100,000 Rupees (or \$1800 AUD) is urgently needed to complete the brickwork. Finishing this stage is vital so they can then secure further government grants for the roofing.

Please help restore dignity and faith for Bharath and his devoted family by providing safe shelter for them.

Your generosity will make an immediate and lasting difference.

Place donations in the Hope Tree boxes at church or go to <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au/donate/> for bank account details.

