



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

## The Baptism of the Lord

11 January 2026

### First Reading **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the  
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the  
cause of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed  
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the  
people and light of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the  
dungeon.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11**

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with  
peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

### Second Reading **Acts 10:34-38**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his  
household: 'The truth I have now come to  
realise' he said 'is that God does not have  
favourites, but that anybody of any  
nationality who fears God and does what is  
right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people  
of Israel, and it was to them that the good  
news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ –  
but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must  
have heard about the recent happenings in  
Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he  
began in Galilee, after John had been  
preaching baptism. God had anointed him  
with the Holy Spirit and with power, and  
because God was with him, Jesus went about  
doing good and curing all who had fallen into  
the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation **See Mark 9:8**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the  
Father's voice was heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel **Matthew 3:13-17**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be  
baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him.  
'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said  
'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied,  
'Leave it like this for the time being; it is  
fitting that we should, in this way, do all that  
righteousness demands.' At this, John gave  
in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up  
from the water, and suddenly the heavens  
opened and he saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove and coming down on  
him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my  
Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



### LEO'S LENS REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'We are not made for a life where  
everything is taken for granted and static,'  
Pope Leo says, 'but for an existence that is  
constantly renewed through gift of self in  
love.'

Our baptismal calling is, after all, a call to  
action!

'There is a burning question in our hearts,'  
the Pope reflects, 'a need for truth that we  
cannot ignore, which leads us to ask  
ourselves: what is true happiness? What is  
the true meaning of life? What can free us  
from being trapped in meaninglessness,  
boredom and mediocrity?'

The Pope encourages us to recollect that  
'the fullness of our existence does not  
depend on what we store up.' As we return  
from the holiday season to Ordinary Time,  
we may well reflect on this: Life is about  
more than possessions.

'We need to lift our eyes,' the Pope says,  
and 'realise that everything in the world  
has meaning only insofar as it serves to  
unite us to God and to our brothers and  
sisters in charity.'

We should, the Pope says, appreciate that  
'fullness has to do with what we joyfully  
welcome and share.' Our lives are more  
fulsome when they are open to celebrating  
the gifts and serving the needs of others.

[Quotes from Homily for Mass of Jubilee of  
Youth, 3 August 2025:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20250803-omelia-giubileo-giovani.html>]

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A <b>1st Reading:</b> Isaiah 49:3. 5-6 <b>2nd Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:29-34
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

## We remember in our prayers:

**Sick:** Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Fleur McAlister, Joanne Perrett, Jen Phillips, Carmel Tope, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Recently Deceased:** Maureen March (Weds 14/1, 10am Singleton), Valerie Diputado, Jovenia D. Beever.

**Anniversaries:** Ann Payne, Carol Cox, Josephine McShane, Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas.

**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.**

## PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<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>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<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>
<b>Facebook</b>	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>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<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>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<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>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</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 18 JANUARY 2026

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8.15am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	<i>Tuesday 13 Jan J Brackenrig</i>
<b>Commentator</b>		L Harrison	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCCC Staff	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas K Gould	Cecilia Helena	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	SCCC Staff	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>		N/A	M Alsleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	

*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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>12 January</b>	<b>13 January</b> <i>St Hilary</i>	<b>14 January</b>	<b>15 January</b>	<b>16 January</b>	<b>17 January</b> <i>St Anthony</i>	<b>18 January</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Funeral Mass</b> <i>Maureen March</i> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Novena</b> <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>SCAE</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

***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

Our parishes acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for the land we meet on 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.

## Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 13 January 2026 from 12pm in the Albion Hotel. Any senior singles are invited to join them.

## St Brigid's Caritas Group Monthly Lunch

St Brigid's Caritas will meet for their next monthly lunch on Friday 16 January 2026 from 12pm in Miller Park Hotel. All are welcome to join them for lunch and fellowship.



## It's Fiesta Time!

The 2026 Parish Fiesta in honour of Santo Niño (the child Jesus), will be held on Sunday 8 February 2026 commencing with Mass at 10am in St Patrick's Church and then to the Civic Centre for celebrations. **You can put your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you will be joining the lunch and entertainment.** There will be raffles on sale for the Fiesta with great prizes to be announced. For more information, please speak with Frieda King.

## Sisters of Faith Dinner 2026

You are warmly invited to our Sisters of Faith Dinner on Wednesday 11 February 2026 from 6.30-9.00pm for an evening of friendship, reflection, and inspiring conversation that nourishes both heart and soul in the Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For more information on this popular annual event to purchase tickets, follow the links on the event page <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>

## 2026 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Course

The CPE Introductory course is run over a period of five weeks (each Monday), commencing on Monday 2 February 2026 at Mackillop Parish, Charlestown from 9am to 4pm. Topics covered include Pastoral Care, Listening, Self-Awareness, Grief, Healing & Illness and Community. The course is also a pre-requisite for anyone considering a role in hospital chaplaincy.

Enquiries for this course can be directed to Fr. Roger Zohrab [rzohrab@bigpond.com](mailto:rzohrab@bigpond.com)

Find out more about Clinical Pastoral Education <https://www.nswccpe.edu.au/hunter-cpe-centre>

## Rite of Election 2026

The Rite of Election on Sunday 22 February 2026 at 1.30pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil. A catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. The service will be followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

## SELFNA Inc.

(Singleton English Lessons for New Australians)

for 2026

SELFNA Inc. is a not for profit, volunteer group of

teachers who offer **FREE ENGLISH LESSONS**

to all nationalities, levels, and ages.

- Where: Singleton Public Library.
- When: First two Saturdays of each month.
- The third Saturday is conversational at a cafe/pub.
- Time: 10:45-1:00 Morning tea is provided.

• Email: [selfna469@gmail.com](mailto:selfna469@gmail.com)

• Facebook link:



SELFNA Inc.

(Singleton English lessons Para Sa Mga Bagong

Australians) for 2026

SELFNA Inc. Ito ay Isang Non-profit, Boluntaryong

Grupo Na nag Alok Nang **LIBRENG MGA ARALIN SA**

**ENGLISH** Sa lahat Nang Mga Nasyonalidad, Antas at

Edad

- Saan: Singleton Public Library.
- KAILAN: Ang una at ikalawang Sabado ng buwan. Ang ikatlong Sabado ay pakikipag-usap sa isang lokal na cafe na isasaayos.

• ORAS: 10:45- 1:00.

• Nagbibigay kami ng libreng morning tea

• Email: [selfna469@gmail.com](mailto:selfna469@gmail.com)

• Facebook link:





# 2025 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the 2025 Christmas Collection. A total of \$3923.60 was collected. These funds will be used to help fund two projects in Odisha, India through the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle.

## **Empowerment at the Little Flower Social Action Centre, Kundra - \$1,000**

The Kundra centre's tailoring program empowers women from poor farming families to earn a sustainable livelihood. Following the success of their 2025 course, they are launching a new 3-month session in Dangarappalli village for 20 participants. Most are illiterate and struggle to meet basic needs; this skill allows them to work from home and support their families. *Pictured below are the 25 women trained in 2025.*



## **Rural Health-Care Program, Laxmipur Social Action Centre - \$1950**

Under the direction of Fr. Binish Kuzhiyadiyl, two sisters from the Medical Sisters of St. Joseph (MSJ) run the Laxmipur centre's medicine dispensary, providing life-saving care to children, women, and the elderly in remote areas. From medical camps to home visits, and preventive care for children and the elderly, they provide the only healthcare many of these villagers will ever receive.

## *St Brigid's Caritas Group*

What does the word *Caritas* mean?

- ✝ It means *Love*
- ✝ A special kind of love – *Charitable Love* - a selfless, unconditional love for others
- ✝ The word *Charity* comes from the Latin word *Caritas* – loving kindness through giving

The **St Brigid's Caritas Group** meet each month for lunch. These lunches are a great way for parishioners to practice *Caritas* in a relaxed, social setting - building the fellowship that keeps our community strong.

Why not join them for their next lunch this **Friday 16 January** at Miller Park Hotel from 12pm.

*Photos below are of the group enjoying their Christmas lunch where they exchanged Kris Kringle presents.*

