

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

18 January 2026

First Reading **Isaiah 49:3, 5-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

**(R.) Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **John 1:14. 12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel **John 1:29-34**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

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



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

While the familiar often feels comfortable, the Gospel reminds us to seek always to be ready for the Christ who approaches us from unexpected directions. This, Pope Leo explains, is why the Church's rediscovery of the synodal pathway is so important.

As the Pope says, the Church has reached a moment in its history when 'it is necessary to engage in a genuine synodal exercise, that is, to walk together in order to question ourselves, to begin some experimentation and to initiate a serene and frank discernment.'

This is a critical moment for us. The Pope wants us to realise that, if embraced willingly, 'these experiences can help us to discern the future.' The smallest of conversations can lead to great things.

The Pope offers the example of people struggling to find sufficient and dignified work. He urges us 'to be a Church close to the world of work, compassionate and embodied, so that the proclamation of the Gospel may become a concrete presence of consolation and hope.' In this light the Pope wants us to consider how we might adopt 'the style of proximity, listening to the struggles and hardships of the people.'

We should always remember that John urged his followers to look at 'the Chosen One of God' when he saw Jesus approaching.

[Quotes from Address to Pilgrims from the Dioceses of Tuscany and Others, 11 October 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/october/documents/20251011-pellegrini-toscana.html>]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches
my thirst.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

MYSTERY OF FAITH

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup.
we proclaim you Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

We remember in our prayers:

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

Baptisms: Oscar Mann (Branxton). Jack & Patrick Greene (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Recently Deceased: Ida Thrift (Weds 21 January 10.30am Branxton)

Anniversaries: Cec Crouch, Percy Nowlan, Alfred Thomas.

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

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 25 JANUARY 2026

	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	Tuesday 20 Jan
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	C Langford G McMillan
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	M Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		A Humphreys	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Joy Darryl	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister		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
19 January	20 January St Fabian St Sebastian	21 January St Agnes	22 January St Vincent	23 January	24 January St Francis de Sales	25 January THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 6.00pm SCAE Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass 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 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 or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

St Patrick's Novena

We invite you to join us to bring your intentions and pray the Novena before Mass each Saturday morning from 9am. If you would like to join the roster of leaders for the Novena, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Frieda King.



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.** Raffle on sale for the Fiesta with these great prizes up for grabs:

- Furi Pro 7 Piece Knife Block Set valued at \$669
- AIWA Party Speaker with disco light show valued at \$199
- Cash prize valued at \$100
- And many more consolation prizes.

For more information, please speak with Frieda King.

Greta-Branxton St Vincent de Paul Conference Needs You!



As North Rothbury and Huntlee continue to grow, so does the need for Vinnies' services. The Greta-Branxton St Vincent de Paul Conference are looking for new members to help manage this growth and serve our local community. Whether you have experience in charity work or just want to give back, they'd love to hear from you. Contact Alan for more details on 0417 832 030.

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

Special Religious Education Expo

Thanks to generous local donors, current and prospective Special Religious Education Teachers and helpers are invite to join us at this FREE Expo! There will be a keynote speaker from the ICCOREIS Team, plus lots of workshop options including classroom management, special needs and creative engagement (puppets, storytelling etc).

The Workshop will be held on Monday 2 February 2026, 9:30am–2:00pm in Maryland, NSW. For further enquiries, email Nicki at mission@mn.catholic.org.au or contact her on 0417 773 444

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>

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

LGBTIQ Catholic Forum Picnic and Gatherings

A relaxed picnic will be held on 18 January at Islington Park to mark eight years since the formation of the LGBTIQ+ Catholic Forum. The Forum is a pastoral ministry that listens to, learns from, and journeys alongside LGBTIQ+ people within our parish communities, as well as those who work across schools, welfare and shared services in the Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle. Find out all the information here: <https://loom.ly/bBhSyCg> The Forum lunch gatherings will recommence on 2 February when they will gather in a member's home with food supplied and everyone bringing their favourite beverage. Other 2026 meeting dates are 22 March, 24 May, 26 July, 27 September, 22 November. For more information email LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

Stella Maris Monthly Mass

All are welcome to join our Catholic Chaplain Mark Spencer each month for Mass. Next Mass is Thursday 29 January 2026, 5:30pm at 96 Hannell Street, Wickham (street parking available). For info email mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au

Stella Maris is the official Catholic Church agency for the Apostleship of the Sea and the world's largest ship-visiting network, providing spiritual, social, and material support to seafarers and fishers regardless of their background. The organisation offers services such as ship and shore visits, communication with families, transport, food and SIM cards, and advocacy for seafarers' rights and welfare. Stella Maris provides a vital lifeline to these often-isolated maritime workers through its network of chaplains and seafarer centres globally.



Here is the Lamb of God

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Jesus baptised his disciples with the Holy Spirit. Draw yourself being baptised by Jesus.

John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God, because he was the pure and spotless gift to God the Father. What can we do to be pure and spotless in the eyes of God?



Use the code key to decipher what John the Baptist knew about Jesus

