



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 January 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence

as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **(R.)**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness

has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death

a light has dawned.

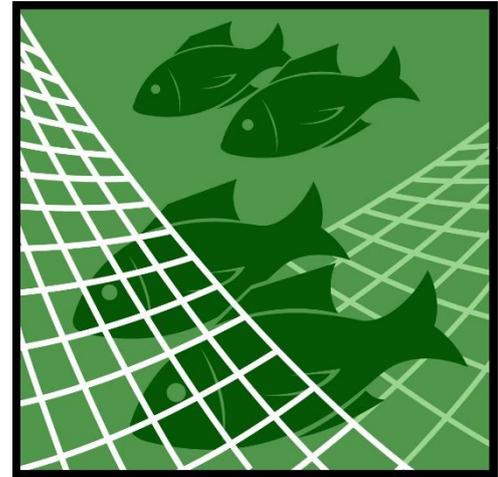
From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



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

'Responding to today's challenges may sometimes seem beyond our capabilities,' Pope Leo says, 'but this is not the case.' He calls on us to 'work together to set humanity free from the encircling gloom' that 'threatens to "cancel" hope.'

Reflecting on St John Henry Newman's hymn, *Lead, Kindly Light*, the Pope wants us to 'disarm the false reasons for resignation and powerlessness.' He wants us to 'share the great reasons for hope in today's world.' Even in the darkness, we see a great light.

With our eyes focused on the true light of this world, we are called to be pointers to it.

'Let us', the Pope says, 'reflect upon and point out to others those "constellations" that transmit light and guidance at this present time, which is darkened by so much injustice and uncertainty.'

Indeed, our own lives should become living reflections of that light. 'Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful', the Pope says. 'Instead, it shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that we are called by God, have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves.'

'Every single creature has a role to play', he continues. 'The contribution that each person can make is uniquely valuable.' For that reason, we should also always be open to the light shining in those we meet.

[Quotes from Homily for the Mass in which St John Henry Newman was proclaimed Doctor of the Church, 1 November 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20251101-messa-giubileo-formatore.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.	<p style="text-align: center;">We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Valerie Diputado, Fleur McAlister, Joanne Perrett, Jen Phillips, Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Michael Cauchi (Thursday 29 January 11.00am Branxton)</p> <p>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.</p>
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim you Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, 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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish			
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	
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 1 FEBRUARY 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	<i>Tuesday 27 Jan J Woolley</i>
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	S Purdon C Trunk	D Clarke	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	J & S Stafa	Jeanette Norma	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Kevin & Jonathon	
Extraordinary Minister		N/A	M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Borg	

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
26 January <i>Australia Day</i>	27 January <i>Sts Timothy & Titus St Angela Merici</i>	28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	29 January	30 January	31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	1 February <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.50am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <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 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.**

Raffles 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!

Volunteers Needed **Vinnies good works**

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

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Read the Latest Hope Tree Project Report

Copies of the updated *Hope Tree Group Project Report* are available at each church. You can also read it on our website, using this QR Code.



Word of God Sunday 2026

In September 2019, Pope Francis instituted the celebration of Word of God Sunday when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Word of God Sunday on 1 February in 2026. Many countries celebrate the occasion on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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>

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.

Rite of Election

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026 | 1:30 PM | Sacred Heart Cathedral

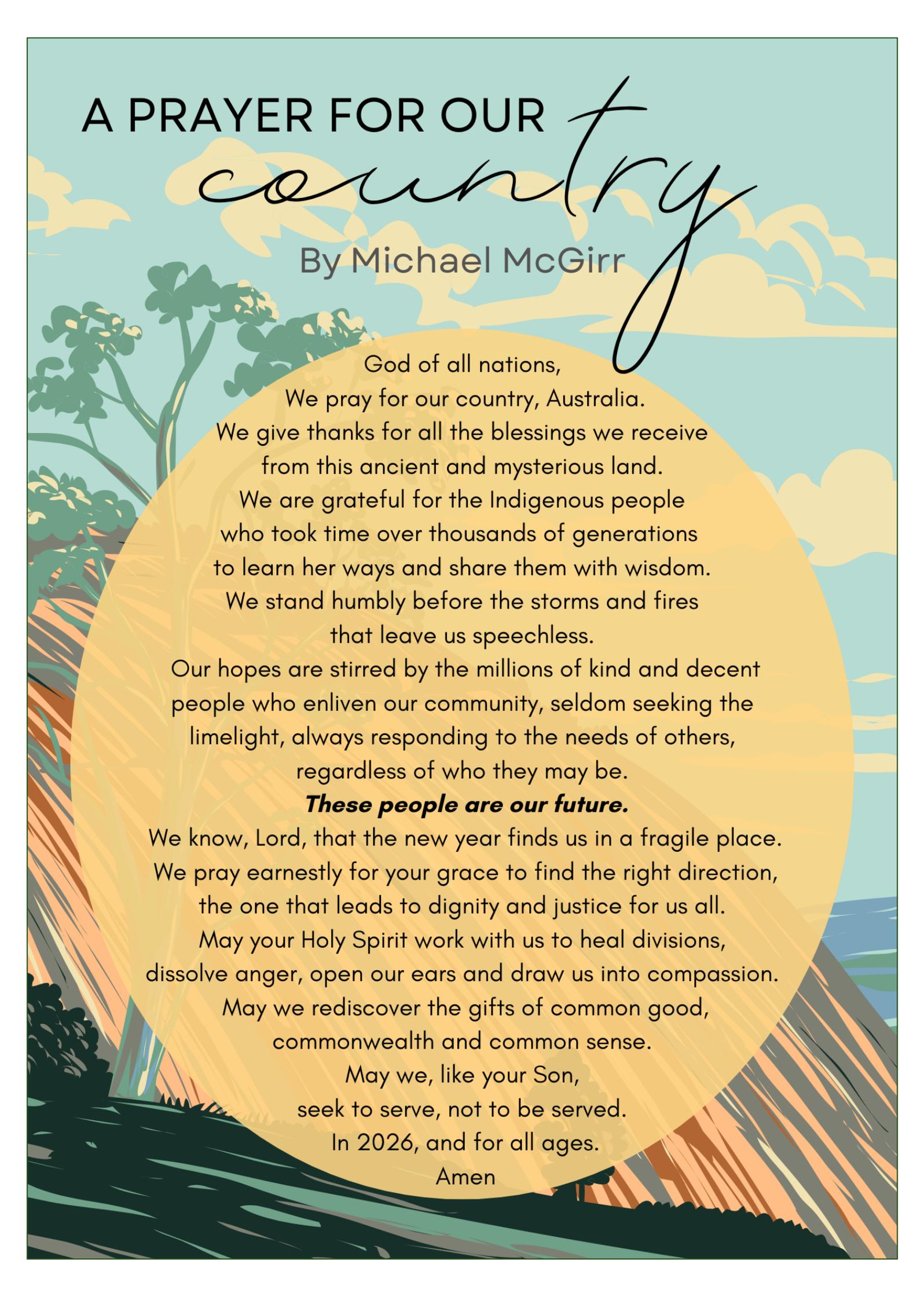


Join us in supporting our RCIA Catechumens in their faith journey



Mission & Evangelisation

For info & catering numbers email mission@mn.catholic.org.au



A PRAYER FOR OUR *country*

By Michael McGirr

God of all nations,

We pray for our country, Australia.

We give thanks for all the blessings we receive
from this ancient and mysterious land.

We are grateful for the Indigenous people
who took time over thousands of generations
to learn her ways and share them with wisdom.

We stand humbly before the storms and fires
that leave us speechless.

Our hopes are stirred by the millions of kind and decent
people who enliven our community, seldom seeking the
limelight, always responding to the needs of others,
regardless of who they may be.

These people are our future.

We know, Lord, that the new year finds us in a fragile place.

We pray earnestly for your grace to find the right direction,
the one that leads to dignity and justice for us all.

May your Holy Spirit work with us to heal divisions,
dissolve anger, open our ears and draw us into compassion.

May we rediscover the gifts of common good,
commonwealth and common sense.

May we, like your Son,
seek to serve, not to be served.

In 2026, and for all ages.

Amen