

First Reading

Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R.)**

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R.)**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

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



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

'Education is not only the transmission of content,' Pope Leo says, 'but also the learning of virtues. It forms citizens capable of serving and believers capable of witnessing, men and women who are freer, no longer alone.'

Making these comments, the Pope wants us to recapture the true core of the Church's mission to educate.

He encourages us to make sure our schools become 'an environment in which faith, culture and life intertwine ... a living environment in which the Christian vision permeates every discipline and every interaction.'

But he also notes what takes place outside of schools and universities. The family, he reminds us, 'remains the first place of education'.

In these changing times, he suggests, we must avoid any 'technophobia' that would see us withdraw from opportunities to put forth the Christian message – not only by teaching, but first and foremost by witness.

We do well then, to foster 'an educational style that promotes respect, personalised accompaniment, discernment and the development of all the human dimensions.' We should also embrace an educational mindset that 'is fulfilled and strengthened also through the contemplation of Creation'.

At certain moments, we are all educators. We therefore have an important vocation to, as the Pope puts it, 'cultivate a heart that listens, a gaze that encourages, and an intelligence that discerns.'

[Quotes from Apostolic Letter Drawing New Maps of Hope, 27 October 2025: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_letters/documents/20251027-disegnare-nuove-mappe.html]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.	<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, Fleur McAlister, Joanne Perrett, Jen Phillips, Sharon Wood, Donald, Xi, Susie, Vladimir and Charles. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Victoria Diputado, Andrew Humphreys, Harold Stocks.</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: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your 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	<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 15 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 10 Feb J Brackenrig</i>
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Readers	J & S Stafa	K Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		D Clarke	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	A Trunk S McAlister	Lynn Cecilia	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9 February	10 February <i>St Scholastica</i>	11 February <i>Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the Sick</i>	12 February	13 February	14 February <i>St Cyril & Methodius</i>	15 February <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	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> LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>11.00am</u> Mass <i>Elizabeth Gates</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> SCAE <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	NO MASS		<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.

Viva Pit Señor

A very warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors as we gather today to celebrate the Fiesta in Honour of Santo Niño (the Holy Child Jesus). Today, St Patrick's Church is filled with the vibrant spirit of faith, gratitude, and community. As we honour the Santo Niño, we remember the words of Jesus: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

Today's Celebration Highlights:

- **Procession & Dance:** Join us in the traditional "Sinulog" dance, a rhythmic prayer of praise and petition.
- **Blessing of Statues:** We invite you to bring your own images of the Santo Niño forward for a special blessing.
- **Community Fellowship:** After Mass, please join us in the Civic Centre for a shared meal and cultural performances.

Whether you are here for the first time or returning home to St. Patrick's, we are honoured to have you celebrate with us. May the image of the Holy Child remind us all of God's humility and His immense love for each of us. May the Santo Niño bless you, your families, and your homes with peace and joy throughout the coming year. **HAPPY FIESTA TO ALL!**

Love Being Outdoors? Join the Singleton Cemetery Team!

Our local cemetery is a place of rest, reflection, and history – and it needs a little extra care! We are looking for volunteers to help with general maintenance and 'beautification' to keep the grounds looking their best. Many hands make light work! Even if you can only spare an hour a month, your contribution makes a massive difference to the families who visit their loved ones there. **Please contact the parish office if you're able to help.**

- THANK YOU -

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to all those who currently assist with the cemetery maintenance especially *Kerry and Julie Dries*. Very special thanks to *Ron Nowland*, who has taken special care of the lawn cemetery for many years and is hanging up his whipper snipper to have a well-earned rest.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles will hold their monthly lunch on **Tuesday 10 February at 12pm** in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any seniors on their own are welcome to join the group for lunch.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday 11 February at 1.30pm** in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights. New members most welcome.

To Serve at the Altar is to Serve Christ!

Behind every beautiful Mass at St Brigid's is a Sacristan - a quiet guardian ensuring every candle is lit, every vessel is prepared, and the sanctuary is ready for prayer.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Sue McAlister, who has served as our Sacristan for many years. Her devotion and care for our parish have been a true blessing to us all. As Sue prepares to step back from this role after Easter, we celebrate her legacy of service and her love for the Branxton community.

We are now looking for new volunteers to carry on this vital tradition. To make this transition smooth, we are offering a mentorship period starting now. You will train alongside Sue through the Lenten season, gaining the confidence and skills needed to step into the role after Easter Sunday. This doesn't have to be a weekly commitment! The role can easily be shared on a roster between 2 or 3 volunteers. If you seek a way to give back to the parish in a quiet, reflective environment, this ministry is a perfect fit.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr Thomas or Sue after Mass.

- THANK YOU -

A huge thank you to Kevin and the team at Branxton-Greta Men's Shed for assisting with getting the water back on at the Greta church site this week. We appreciate all that you do!

Enrol for the 2026 Parish Sacramental Program

Is your child ready to take the next step in their faith? We are delighted to announce that expressions of interest are now open for the **2026 Parish Sacramental Program**. This is a special time for our young parishioners to grow closer to God through the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. We invite all families to join us in supporting these children as they begin this grace-filled journey. To be eligible for the 2026 program, children must be currently in **Year 3 or above** and must be **Baptised in the Catholic Church**. *Note: We also warmly welcome children wishing to be Baptised into the Catholic faith to join this cohort.*

Please contact the Parish Office to place your child's name on the list by emailing or phoning during office hours (see page 2 for contact details).

Specific dates and details for our *Information Sessions* will be sent to all registered families and advertised in the bulletin, website and Parish Facebook page. These sessions are essential for understanding the program requirements and the commitment involved for both parents and children.



2028 Sydney International Eucharistic Congress

In 2028, Australia will host a landmark moment as Sydney hosts the International Eucharistic Congress (Eucharist28). This is more than a single event. It marks the beginning of a journey of renewal, transformation and mission, centred on an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. A moment to believe. The journey has begun. Join us at eucharist28.org.

To mark the national launch of **Eucharist28**, St Patrick's Parish will hold a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Sunday, 1 March 2026**, immediately following the 10.00am Mass. This launch is a national moment of unity; let's come together before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for our parish, our city, and our world.



WORLD
DAY OF
THE SICK
11 FEBRUARY 2026

Pope Leo's Message for the 34th World Day of the Sick

*The compassion of the Samaritan:
loving by bearing another's pain*

Theme: "To be one in the One" – Encounter, Compassion, and Care

In his message for the World Day of the Sick (to be celebrated on 11 February 2026 in Chiclayo, Peru), the Holy Father calls the Church to rediscover the "social dimension of compassion." He focuses on three key themes:

- **The Gift of Encounter:** We live in a culture of "speed and haste" that often makes us indifferent. Following the example of the Good Samaritan, we are challenged not just to know who our neighbour is, but to *become* a neighbour by freely drawing near to those who suffer.
- **A Shared Mission:** Care for the sick is not just an individual task; it is an "ecclesial action." Like the Samaritan who worked with the innkeeper, we are called to act as a family. The Pope highlights that a society's health is measured by how the healthy serve the sick and how relatives love each other in times of trial.
- **Rooted in Divine Love:** Our love for the sick is the "tangible proof" of our love for God. By setting aside worldly stereotypes of success and status, we find our true dignity in caring for the "Body of Christ"—our brothers and sisters who are elderly, ill, or afflicted.

Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear. Let us seek her intercession with this ancient prayer, that has been invoked in families for those living with illness and pain:

***Sweet Mother, do not part from me.
Turn not your eyes away from me.
Walk with me at every moment
and never leave me alone.
You who always protect me
as a true Mother,
obtain for me the blessing of the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.***

Pope Leo imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all who are sick, to their families and to those who care for them – healthcare workers and pastoral workers alike – and in a special way to all participating in this World Day of the Sick.

Taken from the Message of Pope Leo XIV, for the 34th World Day of the Sick 2026, at the Vatican 13 January 2026.

Journey through Lent with the Compassio – Lenten Program 2026!

This Lent, enter into the heart of *compassio*—to “suffer with”—a grace-filled invitation to stand with Christ and with one another. Let this beautifully designed, 76-page, full-colour companion guide you through daily reflections, Sunday Gospel readings and reflections, spiritual direction, prayers, and group discussion questions, all crafted to deepen your encounter with God's mercy.

Enrich your experience with with an accompanying visio divina: a contemplative encounter with sacred art from masters and a detailed examination of conscience and guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to deepen your Lenten journey.

The daily reflections have been prayerfully written by 20 clergy, religious, and lay contributors from across Australia and beyond. *Compassio* offers rich insights that invite, challenge, and console—ideal for both individual prayer and group study. Whether journeying alone or in community, *Compassio* provides the tools to rediscover hope, solidarity, and the healing love of Christ.



**Available at Branxton,
Greta and Singleton
churches for \$8 each
Use the envelope to pay**