



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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Project Compassion Sunday

15 February 2026



First Reading Sirach 15:15-20
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R.)**

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R.)**

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers, it was not We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God

which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See **Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body

thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Let us remember', Pope Leo says, 'that no one can give what they do not have.' Our witness to Christ is most effective when we strive to be Christ-like.

'The words of Jesus', the Pope explains, 'convey to us how God sees the world, at every moment and in every place.' We see thereby that 'the Lord looks into the hearts of people.' Jesus is more concerned with inner truth than outward appearance.

Recognising this characteristic of Our Lord, the Pope suggests that 'through his eyes, we can also recognise one who is in need.' Those forgotten by the world are those to whom Jesus drew the attention of his followers.

'God's saving work is the beginning of our mission,' the Pope reminds us, 'because it invites us to give of ourselves for the good of all.'

'Listening to Moses and the Prophets,' the Pope continues, 'means remembering God's commandments and promises, whose providence never abandons anyone.' We must always remember that God's law is merciful, oriented to salvation.

As the Pope suggests, we need to know and proclaim and love the 'the truth that saves us' - Jesus, our Risen Lord. Such loving of Our Lord, he says, 'leads us to understand the Gospel, for love transforms us by opening our hearts to the word of God and to the face of our neighbour.'

[Quotes from Homily for the Jubilee of Catechists, 28 September 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20250928-omelia-giubileo-catechisti.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.	<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. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Sonny Redgrove (Branxton) and Saylor Purcell (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Sr Rae Brooker RSM (Tues 17/2 11am Graveside Nuns Cemetery), Marjorie Jackson (Funeral Mass, Fri 20/2 11.30am Singleton), Bernie Callinan (Scone).</p> <p>Anniversaries: Anne Archinal, Daisy Tierney, Edna Tierney, Gloria Trunk, Victor Trunk.</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: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES First Sunday of Lent, Year A 1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11	
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
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 22 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 17 Feb G McMillan C Langford</i>
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	H Hartcher M Thomas	A Humphreys	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Saptitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Helena Joy	J Tindale E Thomas	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	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
16 February	17 February <i>Seven Founders of Servites</i>	18 February <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	19 February	20 February	21 February <i>St Peter Damian</i>	22 February <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A MST DAY</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> LOTW <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 <u>11.30am</u> Funeral Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	NO MASS	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	NO MASS	<u>9.00am</u> <i>Opening School Liturgy</i> <i>Rosary Park Catholic School</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE <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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Mass will be said on Ash Wednesday in Singleton at 9.20am and in Branxton at 6.00pm.

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Thursday. At this point, the Easter Triduum begins and Catholics enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion before Easter.

Although penance is a calling of every Catholic throughout his or her life, Lent is a season specially marked out for the Church to be 'united among themselves by common observance' of it (Code of Canon Law, §1249). It is a way of growing in the faith together.

Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.



Why ashes?

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and symbolise the spirit of penance that marks the Lenten season. Ashes were commonly used in ancient religions (including Judaism) as an expression of sorrow and humiliation. In the early Church, Jewish converts introduced this practice into the Christian liturgy. By being marked with ashes, a Catholic today is recognised by the community gathered as one who has chosen to repent of sin and believe in the Good News. A sign to be worn with conviction!

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.**

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite all parishioners to join them for their monthly lunch on Friday 20 February from 12pm at the Miller Park Hotel.

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.

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). 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 the **Eucharist28**, St Patrick's Parish, Singleton 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.

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PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

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



Wishing You a Joyful Tết 2026

The parish extends its warmest wishes to the Vietnamese community for a happy and holy Lunar New Year. We give thanks for the vibrant culture and faith you bring to our parish. We pray that this Year of the Horse brings you closer to Christ and strengthens the bonds of your families and our community.

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới



World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



World Day of Prayer: Friday, 6 March – Focus on Nigeria

Join us as we unite with millions of people around the globe for the **World Day of Prayer**. This year, we gather to reflect, pray, and support one another through shared faith and community spirit.

Everyone is welcome to attend either of the following local services:

- 10.00am, Branxton Anglican Church, 44 Cessnock Road
- 7.00pm, Singleton Generate Church, 3 Campbell Street

Please come along and bring a friend as we participate in this meaningful international ecumenical movement. We look forward to seeing you there!