

First Reading **Genesis 12:1-4**
A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading **2 Timothy 1:8-10**
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 17:5**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice
is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel **Matthew 17:1-9**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo says that 'we should set aside moments of silence, moments of prayer, times in which, quieting noise and distractions, we recollect ourselves before God in simplicity of heart.'

'This', he adds, 'is a dimension of the Christian life that we particularly need to recover today, both as a value for individuals and communities, and as a prophetic sign for our times.'

Such silence and reflectiveness, the Pope suggests, helps us prioritise our 'relationship with God'. But such disposition should also, he adds, 'help us to be more open, more welcoming to others.'

This active dimension of Christian contemplation is something the Pope wants us to remember. Even in our recreational moments, he suggests, we can find 'an opportunity to care for others, to get to know each other and to offer advice and a listening ear.'

Caring and listening, he reminds us, 'are expressions of love, and that is something we all need.' We should therefore all love 'with courage'. As the Pope points out, such active love is transformative, because 'through solidarity, in the sharing of faith and life, we will help to promote a culture of peace.'

Each of us, therefore, should respond to the Lord's call to start 'helping those around us to overcome divisions and hostility and to build communion.'

[Quotes from Homily at the Cathedral of Albano, 20 July 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20250720-omelia-albano.html>]

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Living the GOSPEL

'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present - and we, the readers - to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.	<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, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, Sharon Wood, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Saint and Olive Bullard (Branxton). Josie and Billy Maruncic and Huey Gageler (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Kevin Johns (Weds 4 March, 11am Branxton), Santiago Ferrer, Clyde Basque.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Harold Thrift.</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: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Third Sunday of Lent, Year A 1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7 2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Gospel: John 4:5-42	
MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

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	
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 8 MARCH 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 3 March J Brackenrig</i>
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	S McAlister S Purdon	Jeanette Joy	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	J Dunn	M Stowe	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
2 March	3 March	4 March <i>St Casimir</i>	5 March	6 March	7 March <i>St Perpetua & Felicity</i>	8 March <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, 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>Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
<u>5.30pm</u> <i>Sacramental Info Meeting</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> SCAE <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.

Lenten Programs

Singleton Parish will be holding a Reflection group after 9.20am Mass on Wednesdays and will use the book at these sessions. Way of the Cross will be held in Singleton on Fridays after Mass.



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 this Sunday, 1 March 2026, following Mass at 11.30am. 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.

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).

Singleton 2026 Parish Sacramental Program

Singleton Parish will hold an **information meeting** for the Sacramental Program on Monday 2 March at 5.30pm in St Patrick's Church. All interested children and their families are invited to attend. This meeting will provide essential details regarding enrolment, key dates, and how the parish will support your family through these special milestones.

World Day of Prayer 2026 – Focus on Nigeria

The 2025 World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 6 March. Services will be held at 10am in the *Anglican Church, Branxton* and at 7pm in *Generate Church, Singleton*. This year's country of focus is on Nigeria. Attendees at Branxton are asked to bring a plate of food to share. For more information visit <https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/wdp/>

St Patrick's Parish First Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 March 2026 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the souls of

- ✠ Stephen Coffey
- ✠ Kevin Tope.

At 9am each Saturday, St Patrick's Parish prays the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We invite and welcome you all to pray with us at the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2026 from 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. New members are welcome and we would love to see there.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Join the St Brigid's Caritas for lunch on Friday 13 March from 12pm in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All are welcome!

Become an SRE Teacher – Share Faith, Bring Hope

Monday 2 March 1-3pm

Mullane Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Our parishes are looking for generous hearts to join our team of Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers. This beautiful ministry allows you to share the love of Jesus with children in our local public schools, offering them encouragement, connection, and a sense of belonging. If you've ever felt a nudge to serve, this is a wonderful place to begin. All training, support, and resources are provided – you simply bring your witness and willingness. Come along, meet the team, and discover how your "yes" could make a real difference in a child's life. Contact Nicola Graham 0417 773 444 nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

ACBC Social Justice Statements 2026

This year, the Australian bishops have chosen to release two Social Justice Statements – one in February and another in August. The February statement is titled *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*.

Copies of this statement are available at each church this weekend or you can read the statement online at www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements

Journey of Faith: Is God Calling You?

Are you curious about the Catholic faith? Or perhaps you were baptised but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist? Whether you've been attending Mass for years or are just starting to ask questions, the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a welcoming space for you.

What is RCIA?

It is a relaxed, no-pressure process where adults can explore the teachings of the Church, share their spiritual journey, and discern if they are ready to join the Catholic community.

Who is it for?

- **The Unbaptised:** Those who want to learn more about the Christian life.
- **Baptised Christians:** Those from other denominations seeking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- **Adult Catholics:** Those who were baptized but missed out on First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

We invite you to come and see. Our sessions are designed to be a conversation, not a classroom. If you would like to join the group in Singleton, please contact the parish office.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



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.

These short passages from Scripture and from saints down through the ages are designed to help provide a eucharistic focus to prayer. Whether in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or after receiving Holy Communion at Mass, may each of us better appreciate what we have received, and what we are called to become.

Scriptural Passages for reflection

"This is my body, given for you; do this in memory of me."
Luke 22:19

"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Mark 8:27-29

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'"
John 6:35

"Freely you have received, so freely give."
Matthew 10:8

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."
John 6:53

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
John 6:68

"Lord, teach us how to pray."
Luke 11:1

"I have been crucified with Christ so that it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."
Galatians 2:19-20

"All things work to the good for those who love God."
Romans 8:28

Saintly Thoughts for reflection

"Recognise in the bread what hung on the cross, and in the cup what flowed from his side."
St Augustine

"I am the wheat of God, so let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts that I may be made the pure bread of Christ."
St Ignatius of Antioch

"The bread of heaven came down on earth that he might feed the hungry."
St Cyril of Jerusalem

"Father, I am hungry; for the love of God give this soul her food, her Lord in the Eucharist!"
St Catherine of Siena

"Every Holy Communion fills us with Jesus and we must, with Our Lady, go in haste to give him to others."
St Teresa of Calcutta

"The heart of Jesus in the Eucharist is large enough to hold all our hearts in unity and is the dynamic factor that breaks open our hearts to include the poor."
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop

Questions for reflection

What is God asking of me personally, during this year of prayer and eucharistic renewal?

How can I live a more eucharistic life?

Do we as a community live intentionally as the Body of Christ, broken and given up for others?

EUCHARIST 28 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.



Called & Gifted Discernment Process 2026 – Expressions of Interest Now Open!

After the success of the 2025 trial, Mission & Evangelisation is working with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the *Called & Gifted Discernment Process* this year. We will again offer this life-changing discernment process, inviting you to discover your God-given charisms. Commencing in May, step forward in faith and help our parishes thrive through use of your gifts.

Express your interest for 2026 here -> <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/register-for-the-called-gifted-program/>