



First Reading **Exodus 17:3-7**
A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when

at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See John 4:42. 15**

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never
thirst again.**

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel **John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (SHORTER FORM)

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again:

but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again:

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our



fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper

the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.	We remember in our prayers: 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. Recently Deceased: Lorraine Guyer (Tamworth). Anniversaries: Charlie Ward, Patricia Lynch, John George, Barry Goodwin, Jane Stocks, Ben Wyer. 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.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel: John 9:1-41	
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
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 15 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 10 March J Brackenrig</i>
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	L Harrison	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		M Ingold	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	Jeanette Joy	G Cattermole & Friend	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 March <i>St Frances of Rome</i>	10 March	11 March	12 March	13 March	14 March	15 March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	No Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

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.

Legion of Mary - Acies



The Legion of Mary invite you to join them for Acies on Monday 9 March 2026 at 10am in St Catherine's Church, Greta. The service will be followed by morning tea.

Acies is the renewal of the Legion's act of consecration. Acies is Latin for "a standing army," and the Legion professes their allegiance to Mary and Jesus.

Weekday Day Mass - Greta

Fr Thomas will be attending a Clergy Reflection Day on Tuesday 10 March so there will be no Mass in Greta that day. The Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Wednesday.

Branxton 2026 Parish Sacramental Program

Branxton Parish will hold an *information meeting* for the Sacramental Program on Tuesday 17 March at 5.30pm in St Brigid's Church, Branxton. 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.

Singleton 2026 Parish Sacramental Program

The first formation session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held on Friday 13 March at 4.30pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton NOT Sunday 15 March. The candidates and their parents are still required to attend Mass on Sunday 15 March to make their Commitment to the program.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles will hold their monthly lunch on Tuesday 10 March 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 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!

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 baptised 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.

Lenten Retreat - Belmont

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this Lenten Retreat, on Sunday 15 March commencing with Parish Mass at 9am. Morning Tea and Lunch will be provided. Books and Devotional items will be available for purchase on the day. Donations are welcome on the day.

The Lenten Retreat will include:

- Inspiring talks from International Speakers Joelle Maryn and Charbel Raish
- Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation led by Parish Priest, Fr Gerard Mackie
- Praise and Worship
- A women's and men's session
- Children's ministry will be available during the Retreat

To register <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/belmont-lenten-retreat/> or see details on noticeboard.

Called & Gifted Discernment Process 2026 – EOI 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/>

Called to Know More – Invitation Launch

Thursday 26 March, 12pm in the Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West "Let's Unpack that Evangelisation Word"

We are excited to launch Called to Know More, an invitation to explore the mission, story and life of the Church in a way that connects deeply with our everyday experience. Evangelisation! It's a word we hear often. But what does it really mean, here and now? What does it have to do with our work life? Our leadership? Our parish ministry? Perhaps more than we think.

Join us as we gently unpack this word and discover what might be stirring beneath it. No prior knowledge is needed, only curiosity and openness. We will gather once a month to listen, learn and reflect together. Come with your questions. Leave with something to ponder. We look forward to exploring this together. Light lunch provided. Register here:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/called-to-know-more-invitation-launch/>



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future

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.*

POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026

Pope Leo XIV has shared a message for Lent 2026, inviting the faithful to embark on a journey of conversion and renewal, placing God at the centre of their lives and turning away from the distractions and anxieties of daily life.

Lent is a time to allow the word of God to touch hearts, transform lives, and guide each step along the path of following Christ.

Listening

Listening is at the heart of this journey. The Holy Father emphasises the importance of making space for God's word, listening attentively to one another, and responding to the cries of the poor and suffering. By opening themselves to these voices, the faithful can grow in compassion, justice, and discernment.

Fasting

The Holy Father shares that, "if Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God."

Beyond abstaining from food, fasting helps people recognise their true hunger, reorder their desires, live with humility, and speak with care and kindness. It nurtures self-discipline, prayer, and attentiveness to the needs of others.

Together

Lent is a communal journey. Families, parishes, and faith communities are called to support one another in listening, fasting, and acts of service, strengthening bonds and building spaces of hope, mercy, and love. Pope Leo XIV encourages all to embrace this season as an opportunity for renewal, conversion, and deeper commitment to God and neighbour.


You can read Pope Leo's full message using this link:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>

Listening and Fasting
Lent as a Time of Conversion

Message of Pope Leo XIV for Lent 2026

LISTENING




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Lent is a time that invites us to make room for the Word:

- So that it truly becomes a process of listening
- So that God teaches us how to listen as He does
- So that we may recognise the cry of the poor and the suffering

"The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone"



FASTING




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By involving our bodies, fasting supports our discernment:

- It keeps our hunger and thirst for justice alive
- It governs our desires towards God and towards goodness
- It disarms our language and helps us refrain from words that hurt others

"Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness."



TOGETHER





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Lent calls us to walk as a community:

- On a "shared journey" with our parishes, families and ecclesial groups
- Where space is created for the voice of others
- So that our conversion may lead to better relationships and more authentic dialogue

"Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation."





Click here and read the full article

www.humandevlopment.va

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT