



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

15 March 2026

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)



Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 8:12

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**
**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**
**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (SHORTER FORM)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes,

it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**PLEASE
REMEMBER
TO RETURN
PAYMENT FOR
COMPASSIONATE
REFLECTIONS**

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<p>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.</p> <p>COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.</p>	<p>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, Anna, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Blake Gatt and Piper Carey (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Anne Boyd, Paul Dunn, Gregory McShane, Connie Ryan, Robert Winter 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>
<p>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11 Gospel: John 11:1-45</p>	
<p>MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</p>	

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 22 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 17 March G McMillan C Langford</i>
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	K Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		D Clarke	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Cecilia Helena	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 March	17 March <i>ST PATRICK</i>	18 March <i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	19 March <i>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	20 March	21 March	22 March <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW 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>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>6.00pm</u> SCAE Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> SCAE <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> 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.

Reconciliation in Lent

Reconciliation during Lent is a central, intentional act of repentance and spiritual renewal, often celebrated through the Catholic Sacrament of Penance to prepare for Easter. It involves examining one's conscience, confessing sins to a priest, and receiving God's forgiveness, helping believers turn away from sin and toward a closer relationship with God.

Branxton Parish – Wednesday 25 March 6.00pm - St Brigid's
Singleton Parish – Monday 30 March 6.00pm – St Patrick's

Office Closed

The Parish Office will be OPEN Monday 16 March and CLOSED on Friday 20 March 2026.

Join us to Celebrate St Patrick's Day



Celebrate our parish's patron saint with an evening of good food and great company. Whether you're Irish by blood or just for the day, all are welcome to join the festivities! Tuesday 17 March, 6.30pm at Club Singleton. To help us coordinate numbers, please use the sheet on the noticeboard to put your name down. *Meals and drinks can be purchased individually at the venue.*

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.

We need Another Sacristan for Branxton

One willing volunteer has stepped forward to be Sacristan at Branxton, however, they are not able to be in the position each week. We need someone else to help out. Please see Sue.

Chrism Mass 2026

Bishop Michael invites you to join him, the clergy and people of the diocese in celebrating this year's Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31 March at 7.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Southern Cross Hall.

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.

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/>

Become a Part of the Family in 2027!

Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten and Year 7 for 2027 at **St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton**. Scan the dinosaur QR code here to enrol online →



The College will be holding an open day on Tuesday 28 April from 4-6pm. This is a chance to take a tour of the facilities and ask the friendly staff any questions you may have about Kindergarten and Year 7 in 2027. Register using ← this QR code.

Ministry Employment Opportunities

Catholic Schools is seeking a Temporary Full-Time Family Engagement Coordinator. For more information on the position:

www.mn.catholic.edu.au/careers/

Mission & Evangelisation are seeking a full-time Correctional Centre Chaplain to provide a ministry of healing and pastoral presence at Cessnock Correction Centre. Email mission@mn.catholic.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

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.*



Holy Week & Easter

Tuesday

6:30pm *Chrism Mass*
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton

Wednesday

9:20am *Mass* - Singleton

Holy Thursday

6:00pm *Mass of the Lord's Supper*
Branxton and Singleton

Good Friday

10:00am *Stations of the Cross* - Branxton
11:00am *Stations of the Cross* - Singleton
3:00pm *Passion of the Lord* - Greta and Singleton

Holy Saturday

7:00pm *Easter Vigil*
Branxton and Singleton

Easter Sunday

8:15am *Mass* - Greta
10:00am *Mass* - Singleton

singletoncatholicparish.org.au

Reconciliation

Wednesday 25 March 2026

6:00pm
St Brigid's Church Branxton

Monday 30 March 2026

6.00pm
St Patrick's Church, Singleton

singletoncatholicparish.org.au



GRETA LEGION OF MARY: A CALL TO DEVOTION



The annual Legion of Mary Acies ceremony was held at St Catherine's Church, Greta, on Monday 9 March. A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who helped make the ceremony such a beautiful success, with special thanks to Fr. Thomas for being there on his usual day off. *Photos above of everyone enjoying morning tea.*

The Greta Legion of Mary remains a steadfast presence as the final active group in the Hunter Valley. While their numbers have grown smaller over the years, their commitment to our Most Immaculate Mother Mary remains as strong as ever.

If you share a deep passion for Our Lady and wish to support this enduring tradition, we invite you to join them. The group meets every **Monday morning** for prayer and fellowship.

For more information on how you can participate, please contact **Joy on 0439 381 372.**