



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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A**

**22 March 2026**

**First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14**  
*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks. The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**



**Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7**

*(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. *(R.)*

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. *(R.)*

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak And Israel on the Lord.). *(R.)*

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *(R.)*

**Second Reading Romans 8:8-11**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation See John 11:25. 26**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (SHORTER FORM)*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came

straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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

## Parish Phone Issues

The Parish Office phone is currently disconnected, and we are waiting patiently for its return.

Please use email, Facebook message or come and visit the Parish Office.

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.	<b>We remember in our prayers:</b> <b>Sick:</b> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Fleur McAlister, Joanne Perrett, Jen Phillips, Reynaldo Purisima, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, Sharon Wood, Anna, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b>
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.	<b>Anniversaries:</b> Michael Markham, Frank McAlister. <b>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.</b>
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Palm Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, A <b>1st Reading:</b> Isaiah 50:4-7 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Philippians 2:6-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 26:14 – 27:66	
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> <i>We proclaim you Death, O Lord,          And profess your Resurrection          until you come again.</i>	

### PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Allan Humphreys
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	

<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mr David Crawford</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>

### MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8.15am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	Tuesday 24 March
<b>Commentator</b>		L Harrison	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	A Humphreys	C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	M Stowe P Abenes	M Cunningham Kevin M	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	C Spiteri	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas K Gould	D Clarke J Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	J Cowley C Becus	Jonathan M Kevin M	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	N/A	N/A	M Alsleben	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>23 March</b> <i>St Turibius of Mogrovejo</i>	<b>24 March</b>	<b>25 March</b> <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	<b>26 March</b>	<b>27 March</b>	<b>28 March</b>	<b>29 March</b> <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A</i>
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00m</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Reconciliation</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://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 CLOSED on Monday 23 March, Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March 2026.

## **Sacristan/s Needed for Branxton**

We are seeking one or two dedicated individuals to serve as a Sacristan for the St Brigid's Branxton community. This is a vital role that ensures our liturgical celebrations run smoothly and reverently. No prior experience is necessary, as *full training will be provided*. We are looking for someone with a deep respect for the liturgy, a reliable nature, and a willing heart to serve.

Responsibilities include:

- **Preparation:** Setting up the altar, sacred vessels, and vestments before Mass.
- **Care:** Ensuring the sanctuary and sacristy are kept clean and orderly.
- **Supplies:** Monitoring levels of altar bread, wine, and candles.
- **Coordination:** Assisting the priest and visiting clergy with pre-Mass requirements.

Please contact the Parish Office, Sue McAlister or Fr Thomas.

## **Rosters for Holy Week and Easter**

Rosters are on the noticeboard in St Patrick's Singleton if you would like to assist at Mass during Holy Week and Easter.

## **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.

## **Update on Planned Giving Envelopes**

Due to changes implemented by the Diocese in July 2025 regarding the tax-deductibility of planned giving, we will *discontinue the issuance of giving envelopes starting July 2026* and **no tax receipts** will be issued for 2025-26 giving.

Your contributions remain vital to our mission. These donations keep our Parish running and allow us to meet our obligations to the Diocesan Services Levy. While envelopes are being phased out, we encourage you to continue your support by placing your donations directly into the *2nd Collection plate*.

## **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/>

## **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/](http://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](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



**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](http://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](http://singletoncatholicparish.org.au)

**Reconciliation**

**Wednesday 25 March 2026**

6:00pm  
St Brigid's Church Branxton

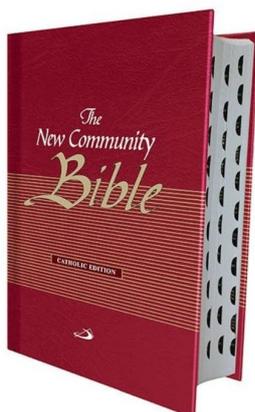
**Monday 30 March 2026**

6.00pm  
St Patrick's Church, Singleton

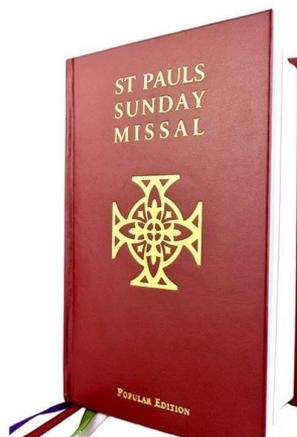
[singletoncatholicparish.org.au](http://singletoncatholicparish.org.au)

**FOR SALE AT PARISH OFFICE**

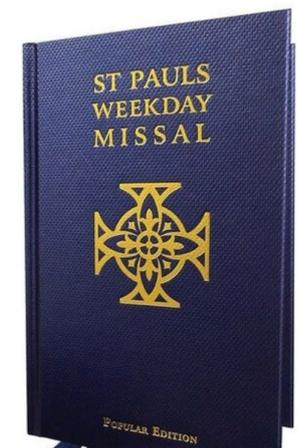
HARDCOVER BIBLES AND MISSALS BACK IN STOCK



\$35.00



\$35.00



\$55.00

MISSALS ARE NO LONGER BEING PRINTED IN SOFT COVER VERSIONS