



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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

29 March 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the
wearied he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and
spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

*(R.) My God, my God, why have you
abandoned me?*

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not
cling to his equality with God but emptied
himself to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are, and being as all
men are, he was humbler yet, even to
accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the
name which is above all other names so that
all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld, should bend the knee at the
name of Jesus and that every tongue should
acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of
God the Father.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to
death dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and
gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew (SHORTER FORM)*

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the
governor, and the governor put to him this
question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'
Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when
he was accused by the chief priests and the
elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then
said to him, 'Do you not hear how many
charges they have brought against you?' But
to the governor's complete amazement, he
offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice
to release a prisoner for the people, anyone
they chose. Now there was at that time a
notorious prisoner whose name was
Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered,
Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me
to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is
called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of
jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of
judgement, his wife sent him a message,
'Have nothing to do with that man; I have
been upset all day by a dream I had about
him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however,
had persuaded the crowd to demand the
release of Barabbas and the execution of
Jesus. So when the governor spoke and
asked them, 'Which of the two do you want
me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'.
'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what
am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?'
They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he
asked 'What harm has he done?' But they
shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!'
Then Pilate saw that he was making no
impression, that in fact a riot was imminent.
So he took some water, washed his hands in
front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of
this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the
people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood
be on us and on our children!' Then he
released Barabbas for them. He ordered
Jesus to be first scourged and then handed
over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them
into the Praetorium and collected the whole
cohort around him. Then they stripped him
and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and
having twisted some thorns into a crown they
put this on his head and placed a reed in his

right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to
him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they
spat on him and took the reed and struck him
on the head with it. And when they had
finished making fun of him, they took off the
cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and
led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man
from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted
him to carry his cross. When they had
reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the
place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink
mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused
to drink. When they had finished crucifying
him they shared out his clothing by casting
lots, and then sat down and stayed there
keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge
against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King
of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers
were crucified with him, one on the right and
one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook
their heads and said 'So you would destroy
the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then
save yourself! If you are God's son, come
down from the cross!' The chief priests with
the scribes and elders mocked him in the
same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he
cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel;
let him come down from the cross now, and
we will believe in him. He put his trust in God;
now let God rescue him if he wants him. For
he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the
robbers who were crucified with him taunted
him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over
all the land until the ninth hour. And about
the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God,
my God, why have you deserted me?' When
some of those who stood there heard this,
they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and
one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which
he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed,
gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of
them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.'
But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice,
yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two
from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the
rocks were split; the tombs opened and the
bodies of many holy men rose from the dead,
and these, after his resurrection, came out of
the tombs, entered the Holy City and
appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile
the centurion, together with the others
guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and
all that was taking place, and they were
terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of
God.'

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **SEE BULLETIN NOTICES COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.	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, Reynaldo Purisima, Paul Ruigrok, Ava Silva, Vincent Smolenaers, Rosita Watkinson, Patricia Wilson, Sharon Wood, Anna, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Joseph Enright (Branxton Tues 31/3 10.30am) Anniversaries: Arlene Thomas, Sr Mary Markham, Neville Thrift 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.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Palm Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, A 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66	Anniversaries: Arlene Thomas, Sr Mary Markham, Neville Thrift 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.
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, And profess your Resurrection until you come again.</i>	<small>© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.</small>

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
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
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	<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 5 APRIL 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		J Dries		Tues 31 March
Commentator		D Clarke		EASTER VOLUNTEER		
Readers	EASTER ROSTER	M Ingold		EASTER VOLUNTEERS		
Prayers		D Clarke		EASTER VOLUNTEER		
Offertory	EASTER ROSTER	Colleen Norma		EASTER VOLUNTEER		
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A		EASTER VOLUNTEER		

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
30 March MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	31 March TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	1 April WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	2 April HOLY THURSDAY	3 April GOOD FRIDAY	4 April EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT	4 April EASTER SUNDAY, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass	<u>6.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass of the Lord's Supper St Patrick's Singleton	<u>11.00am</u> Stations of the Cross	<u>7.00pm</u> Easter Vigil Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>10.00am</u> Easter Sunday Mass St Patrick's Singleton
<u>6.00pm</u> Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00pm</u> Chrism Mass Sacred Heart			<u>3.00pm</u> Passion St Patrick's Singleton		
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass of the Lord's Supper St Brigid's Branxton	<u>10.00am</u> Stations of the Cross St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.00pm</u> Easter Vigil Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Easter Sunday Mass St Catherine's Greta
				<u>3.00pm</u> Passion 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.

Entrance Antiphon – Palm Sunday

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

Office Closed

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Monday 30 March, Friday 3 April, Monday 6 April.

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.

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time

With the end of Daylight Savings on 5 April, Singleton Parish evening Masses will change to **5pm** from Tuesday 7 April 2026. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening and Glendonbrook masses.

Branxton Vigil Mass will remain at 6pm.



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.

Donations for Easter Flowers in Singleton

If you would like to contribute toward the cost of flowers to beautify our church this Easter, please see Frieda to make a donation. Your generosity in helping us prepare for the Resurrection is greatly appreciated.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Afternoon of Reflection

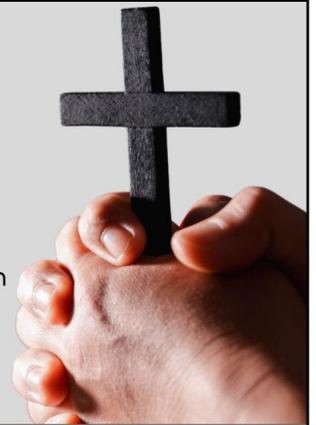
Join us for a special time of Eucharistic Adoration this Sunday, 12 April, at St. Patrick's. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Whether you can stay for the full three hours or just a few quiet moments, all are welcome to sit in prayer and reflect on the abundance of God's mercy.

Reconciliation

Monday 30 March 2026

6.00pm

St Patrick's Church, Singleton



singletoncatholicparish.org.au

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.

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*.

Easter Message from Caritas Branxton

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ continues to bring us hope of eternal life. May you have a holy, peaceful and safe Easter from St Brigid's Caritas.

Cái chết và sự phục sinh của Chúa Giê-su Ki-tô tiếp tục mang đến cho chúng ta niềm hy vọng về sự sống đời đời. Chúc bạn một lễ Phục Sinh thánh thiện, bình an và an lành.

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/>

ALIVE Catholic Young Adult Retreat: To Be Human

The Young Adult Retreat returns this year. Come and experience what it means To Be Human, fully alive, in this life and eternity! To be held 17-19 July 2026 at Camp Elim, Forster this retreat is for young adults aged 18-35! Make new friendships, enjoy dynamic and engaging programs designed for young adults, listen to expert speakers from around NSW and Australia, experience the retreat with praise and the sacraments!

Join the waitlist and be the first to know when registrations are opening – you won't want to miss this!

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/alive-catholic-young-adult-retreat-to-be-human/>

PALM SUNDAY

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

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*.

this Lent



EASTER TRIDUUM

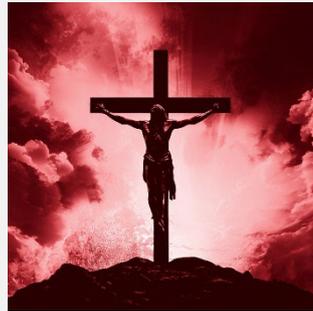


**Mass of the
Lord's Supper**

Thurs 2 April

Singleton 6.00pm

Branxton 6.00pm



**Good
Friday**

Fri 3 April

Stations of the Cross

Branxton 10.00am
Singleton 11.00am

Passion of the Lord

Singleton 3.00pm
Greta 3.00pm

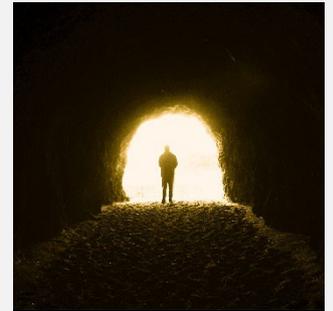


**Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil**

Sat 4 April

Singleton 7.00pm

Branxton 7.00pm



**Easter
Sunday**

Sun 5 April

Greta 8.15am

Singleton 10.00am



Draw or write what happened on each of these special days during Holy Week.



Palm Sunday



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Sunday