



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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

5 April 2026

First Reading Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:1-9

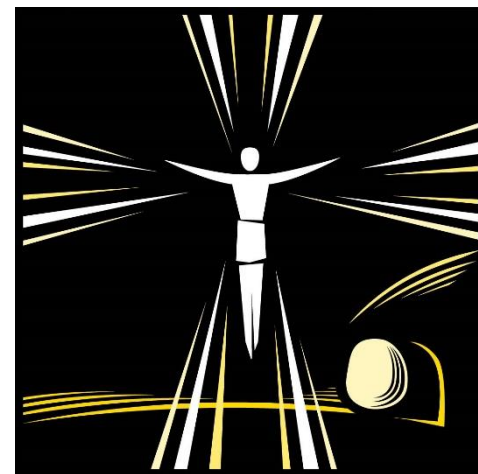
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION BY MICHAEL TATE
Dawn Has Broken – The Son Is Risen

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.	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, Sharon Wood, Anna, Susie, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Daphne Bush, Stanley Thrift, Patricia Wilson (Tues 7/4 10.30am, Branxton), Max Reid (Thurs 9/4 11am, Singleton). Anniversaries: Maureen Bridge. 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: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Second Sunday of Easter, Year A 1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 Gospel: John 20:19-31	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim you 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
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 12 APRIL 2026						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters Singleton
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	<i>Tues 7 April J Brackenrig</i>
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER	E Janssen	
Readers	C Conroy S Stafa	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	Cecilia Helena	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEERS	
Extraordinary Minister	P Conroy	D Clarke	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
6 April <small>MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	7 April <small>TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	8 April <small>WEDS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	9 April <small>THURS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	10 April <small>FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	11 April <small>SAT WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</small>	12 April <small>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C</small>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE 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.

Office Closed

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Monday 6 April and Thursday 9 April.

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.**

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.

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet for lunch on Friday 10 April from 12pm at Miller Park and all are invited to join them.

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.

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/>

Bishop Michael's Easter Message



He is not here.
He has risen,
just as he said.
MATTHEW 28:6

SCAN TO WATCH BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY'S EASTER MESSAGE

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal

Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing. Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety. Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance, and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon



Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal

Over 780,000 people are displaced due to conflict. Your support can help provide essential support.

DONATE NOW
caritas.org.au/Lebanon

QR code

Photo: Caritas Lebanon

Listen to the Heart: Moving Forward Team

Saturday 02 May 2026, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Therry Centre - East Maitland

Join Fr Darryl Mackie and Aunty Wanda Smith in an informative morning to increase our knowledge and understanding of the deep spirituality of First Nations people, connection to Country and relationships with Faith.

Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

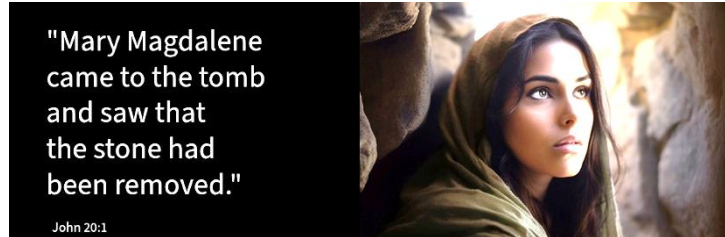
Called to Know More – Stories of Catholic Military Chaplain

Friday 24 April 2026, 10:30am

Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West

In preparation for ANZAC Day, hear from Fr Greg Barker, who will share his personal experience serving as a Military Chaplain on the realities of service, faith, and accompaniment among those affected by war. Following the talk and morning tea, all are invited to join in midday Mass at the Cathedral.

Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>



"Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed."

John 20:1



He is Risen

Easter is the celebration of life, hope, and renewal. In the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we encounter the source of true joy and lasting peace. His victory over sin and death assures us that darkness never has the final word, and that God's love is stronger than every human struggle. When we open our hearts to receive the Risen Lord, His presence dispels fear, heals our wounds, and fills us with a deep and abiding peace.

This peace is not something we keep only for ourselves. It is a gift meant to be shared. When Christ lives in us, His peace begins to transform our hearts—making us more patient, forgiving, and compassionate. This inner transformation gradually touches our homes, where relationships are renewed and unity is strengthened. Families become places of understanding, care, and mutual respect.

From our homes, this Easter peace extends into society. It inspires us to act with justice, kindness, and love toward others, especially those in need. In a world often marked by division and unrest, the peace of the Risen Christ becomes a powerful witness, bringing hope and reconciliation.

As we celebrate Easter, let us also pray earnestly for peace in our war-torn world. May the Risen Lord comfort those who suffer, protect the innocent, and guide leaders toward justice and harmony.

May His joy fill our hearts, His peace dwell within us, and through us, may His peace reach every home, society, and the whole world.

Fr Thomas Chirackal

UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

EASTER SUNDAY



Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion.

Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!

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.