



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

**Third Sunday of Easter, Year A**

**19 April 2026**



**First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33**  
*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11**

**(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **(R.)**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21**  
*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

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

**Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:32**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:**  
**make our hearts burn with love when you speak.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Luke 24:13-35**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came

up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.	<b>We remember in our prayers:</b>  <b>Sick:</b> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Fleur McAlister, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, Rosita Watkinson, Sharon Wood, Anna, Pam, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b>  <b>Baptisms:</b> Sebastian & Sullivan Conroy and Lainey Orr (Branxton). Evangeline & Francesca Rienstra. <b>Called by name to be a child of God.</b>  <b>Weddings:</b> Gianni Sut and Chiara Caldarola (Singleton, Saturday 25/4, 1pm). <b>What God joins together let no man put asunder.</b>  <b>Anniversaries:</b> Rev James Saunders, Very Rev Paul Simms, Leo Bendeich, Mark Holz, Winifred Nowland.  <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>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.	
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A <b>1st Reading:</b> Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41 <b>2nd Reading:</b> 1 Peter 2:20-25 <b>Gospel:</b> John 10:1-10	
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> <i>We proclaim you Death, O Lord,          And profess your Resurrection          until you come again.</i>	

<b>PARISH CONTACTS</b>			
<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>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Patrick's Parish</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>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Brigid's Parish</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>

<b>MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026</b>						
	<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	<i>Tues 21 April</i> G McMillan C Langford
<b>Commentator</b>		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	K Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson H Sapitula	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		A Humphreys	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas K Gould	Darryl Joy	J Tindale E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	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.*

<b>WEEKLY MASS DIARY</b>						
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>20 April</b>	<b>21 April</b> <i>St Anselm</i>	<b>22 April</b>	<b>23 April</b> <i>St George St Adalbert</i>	<b>24 April</b> <i>St Fidelis of Sigmaringen</i>	<b>25 April</b> <i>ANZAC Day</i>	<b>26 April</b> <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A</i>
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  <u>10.00am</u> <b>Handover Ritual</b> Mercy Convent	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Anointing Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  <u>11.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Novena</b> <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00m</u> <b>SCAE</b> <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<b>NO MASS</b>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</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.

## **Office Closed**

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday 21 April 2026.

## **Reminder about 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*.

## **Celebrating 60 Years of the St. Patrick's Women's Guild**

Since their very first meeting on April 16, 1966, the Women's Guild has been a cornerstone of our Parish life. We are delighted to invite all parishioners to join us in honouring their 60 years of dedicated service with a *Mass and Anniversary Luncheon* on Saturday, 13 June 2026.

Details regarding the venue and cost will be shared very soon. To help us finalize our bookings, please RSVP to the *Parish Office* by 30 May 2026. We look forward to marking this amazing occasion with you!

## **St Brigid's Church Roster Update**

The roster for the upcoming period is currently being prepared! We invite you to share your time and talents with our parish community.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with:

- *Proclaiming the Word*: Reading the Scriptures during Mass.
- *Offertory Procession*: Bringing the gifts to the altar.

*Interested in joining?* If you would like to be added to the roster for either of these ministries, please speak with Mercia.

*Current volunteers:* If you are already on the roster but are unable to continue at this time, please notify Mercia as soon as possible so the schedule can be adjusted.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to our parish life!

## **Prayers for the Sick List**

The *Prayers for the Sick* list will be cleared at the end of April. Please contact the Parish office as soon as possible if you wish a name to remain on the list.

## **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 – 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/>

## **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/>

## **Develop Sustained Self-Reliant in Overseas Communities**

Join Palms International Volunteering for two special sessions where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. In April meet past Palms volunteers and discover how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, or join our May session for a live crossing to Timor Leste and see how lives are changing today. Scan below or see [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events) or phone 02 9560 5333.

**April Session:** Discover Palms Online!

Date: Thursday 30 April 2026

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEST

**May Session:** Live from Timor Leste!

Date: Thursday 21 May 2026

Time: 4 pm – 5:30 pm AEST



APRIL INFO SESSION  
SCAN HERE



MAY INFO SESSION  
SCAN HERE



2026  
National Count of Attendance  
**YOU ARE COUNTED ON**

This May, the Australian Catholic Church participates in the National Count of Attendance.

Every Parish, every Mass, every body.

Help us accurately plan for the future.



# PROJECT COMPASSION

## THANK YOU

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent.

**Please return you Project Compassion box or donation envelope as soon as possible!**

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to bring hope and opportunity to people experiencing poverty and injustice. Together, we are Uniting Against Poverty and walking alongside vulnerable communities as they build stronger, more sustainable futures.

**Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.***



# Thank you

for Uniting Against Poverty this Lent

**DONATE NOW**



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**You are warmly invited to celebrate the retirement of Elizabeth (Liz) Doyle.**

In celebration of Liz's extraordinary 33 years of faithful service to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, supporting four bishops and the life of our Diocesan community with dedication, professionalism and grace.

**Friday 1 May 2026 - 9:30am Mass**  
Sacred Heart Cathedral  
841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

Mass will be followed by a celebration in the Southern Cross Hall and Morning Tea.

**RSVP by 24 April at:**



## You are invited ...

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invite you to a

### Handover Ritual of the Singleton Mercy Convent

**10am Wednesday, 22 April**  
Singleton Convent  
30 Queen Street, Singleton

*Join us for this joyous occasion as we celebrate the gifting of a legacy of mercy and hospitality.*



INSTITUTE OF  
SISTERS OF MERCY  
OF AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

