



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

26 April 2026

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. 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 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an

example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself,' Pope Leo XIV affirms. Rather, it 'is open to everyone and is for everyone.'

The Pope reminds us that 'what really matters in the Church is to be grafted onto Christ, to be children of God by grace. ... We are in the Church in order to receive life from the Father unceasingly and to live as His children and brothers and sisters among ourselves.'

'Consequently,' the Pope continues, 'the law that animates relationships in the Church is love, as we receive and experience it in Jesus.' This being so, we cannot shut the gates to that love. The Church's destination, as the Pope explains, 'is the Kingdom of God, towards which she walks together with all humanity.'

'Even those who have not yet received the Gospel', the Pope adds, 'are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God.' Within the Church 'there is, and there must be, a place for everyone.' Our welcome to every seeker of truth is part of our calling. The Church, as the Pope makes clear, 'is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.'

[Quotes from General Audience, 11 March 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260311-udienza-generale.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Fleur McAlister, 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. Baptisms: Chase, Parker and Adeline Manley (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God. Recently Deceased: Allan Seque (Singleton 29/4 11am). Karl Bendeich (Branxton 30/4 11am). Anniversaries: Tony Ernst, Pauline O’Gorman. 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: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.	
NEXT WEEK’S SCRIPTURES Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A 1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9 Gospel: John 14:1-2	
MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim you Death, O Lord, And profess your Resurrection until you come again.	

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	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 3 MAY 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	Tues 28 April J Woolley
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	A Humphreys	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Lynn Norma	G Cattermole	T & P Abenes	Kevin and Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	M Aisleben	A Grant	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

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
27 April <i>St Louis Grignon de Montfort</i>	28 April <i>St Peter Chanel</i>	29 April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	30 April <i>St Pius V</i>	1 May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	2 May <i>St Athanasius</i>	3 May <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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>11.00am</u> Funeral	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick’s Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick’s Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass First Anniversary St Patrick’s Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick’s Singleton
	NO MASS St Catherine’s Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid’s Branxton <u>11.00am</u> Funeral Mass		<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 Thursday 30 April 2026 and Friday 1 May.

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.

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 2 May 2026 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for *Margaret Dagg* and all those whose anniversaries occur in April and May.

At 9am each Saturday St Patrick's Parish prays the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles will hold their monthly lunch on Tuesday 12 May at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any seniors on their own are welcome to join the group for lunch.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday 13 May at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. New members most welcome.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

The St Brigid's Caritas Group will hold their monthly lunch on Friday 22 May at 12pm in Miller Park Hotel Branxton. All are invited to join them for fellowship over a meal.

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. Mass will be said in St Patrick's Church at 11am followed by lunch at Club Singleton. Those attending are asked to pay \$40 per head for a two-course meal and cake for dessert.

To help us finalise 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!

National Count of Attendance at Mass



The Catholic Church in Australia is gearing up for a nationwide measure of Mass attendance. In May, the *Australian Catholic Bishops Conference* will conduct the 6th National Count of Attendance.

This year marks 25 years of collecting valuable insights into long-term trends within the Catholic Church. The National Count is conducted in the same year as the Australian Census [to be held on August 11] so that the information collected can most effectively be used in association with results from the other. Weekends 1 and 2 are a basic head count, Week 3 includes how many males and females are in attendance and Week 4 counts how many people are attending from five age brackets. You won't be asked to do anything different, but please be patient as our helpers at Mass take the time to do the counts.

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 or phone 02 9560 5333.

April Session: Discover Palms Online!

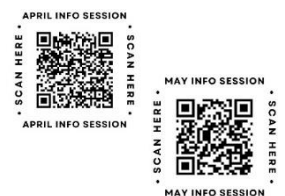
Date: Thursday 30 April 2026

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



Middle East Emergency Appeal – Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

"Lord, Send Out Laborers into Your Harvest"

Today, the Church throughout the world pauses to celebrate the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. While we often think of this day solely in terms of the priesthood or religious life, it is actually a celebration for the entire Parish family.

Every one of us has a "vocation"—a unique, divinely appointed purpose to love and serve God in a way that only we can. Whether through the sacrament of **Priesthood, Marriage**, the **Single Life**, the **Permanent Diaconate**, or **Consecrated Life**, God is constantly whispering a specific "Follow Me" to each heart.

Why We Pray Today

We pray because a vocation is a gift that must be nurtured by the community. We ask the Lord to:

- **Open the ears** of our young people to hear His call amidst the noise of the world.
- **Strengthen the hearts** of those currently in formation or discernment.
- **Support our priests and religious** who serve our parish, that they may be renewed in their zeal.

A Simple Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated religious. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our lives be a reflection of your love. Amen.

How can you help?

You don't need to be a theologian to foster vocations. Simply **encouraging** someone — telling a young person, "*I see the spirit of service in you; have you ever thought about the priesthood/sisterhood?*" — can be the seed that God uses to change a life.

For more information on discernment resources, please contact the Parish Office or visit
<https://mn.catholic.org.au/vocations/>

Vocations – Come and See Retreat Day

Explore God's call on your life through Scripture, gain practical discernment tools from a nationally recognised presenter, pray and reflect in a peaceful natural setting and connect with speakers from a range of vocational backgrounds.

We are delighted to invite you to our **Vocations – Come and See Retreat Day**.

Date: Saturday, 16 May 2026
Time: 9:00am – 3.30pm
Venue: Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland

On the day you can:

- Explore God's call on your life through reflections on Scripture, personal vocation story, and panel discussions
- Learn practical tools for discernment from a nationally recognised presenter
- Pray and reflect in a peaceful natural setting, including celebrating Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy
- Connect with a range of speakers from different vocational backgrounds

More information to follow; however, for initial enquiries or questions, please contact, **Fr Tony Potts**
tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au