



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

3 May 2026

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That

means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;

no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that through the paschal mystery Jesus became 'a blessing for all and forever.' In a sense, this is what Jesus calls each of us to do too. We are called to be Christ's blessing for our neighbourhoods and neighbours.

This calling is critical to our parish life. Each Sunday, the Pope says, 'we gather around Jesus', who 'encourages us' to live the great promise and precious treasure of 'living to give life!'

This being so, the Pope encourages us to listen to Jesus. 'He journeys with us, even today, to teach us', the Pope says. And what Jesus teaches is 'the logic of unconditional love.'

'Let us listen to him,' the Pope implores, 'let us enter into his light so as to become the light of the world, starting with the neighbourhood where we live. The whole life of the parish and its groups exists for this reason: it is a service to light, a service to joy.'

Each one of us, then, is called to build up our communities through 'the gaze of faith, which transfigures everything with hope, putting passion, sharing and creativity into circulation as a cure for the many wounds' we see around us.

[Quotes from Pastoral Visit Homily, 1 March 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260301-visita-pastorale-settore-est.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.	<h2 style="margin: 0;">We remember in our prayers:</h2> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, José Joaquim De Sousa, Fleur McAlister, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Gwen & Lylah McGee, Finn Bellamy (Branxton). Everleigh Deaves, Jaysie Foley, Vienna Witt (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Don Spinks.</p> <p>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.</p>
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A 1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18 Gospel: John 14:15-21	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>	

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	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	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 10 MAY 2026

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	Tues 5 May J Brackenrig
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	S Purdon C Trunk	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & S Stafa	Cecilia Colleen	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Cowley	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	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 4 May	Tuesday 5 May	Wednesday 6 May	Thursday 7 May	Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May	Sunday 10 May <small>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A</small>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00m Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta	6.00pm Sacramental Program Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton	9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.50am Rosary 8.15am SCAE 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 4 May 2026 and Thursday 7 May.

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.

Vinnies Needs Your Help!

Our local St Vincent de Paul store in Singleton is looking for volunteers to help us continue our mission of supporting those in need. We invite you to join our team! Whether you have a few hours to spare *weekly or fortnightly*, your time helps us keep our doors open and our community supported. It is a wonderful way to give back and meet new people.

How to help:

- **Visit us**: Drop into the store on Macquarie Street, Singleton to chat with our team about how to get involved.
- **Apply online**: you can find out more and apply at vinnies.org.au/get-involved/volunteering/volunteer-with-us

Thank you for your generosity and support of the Vinnies mission.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Singleton

The Singleton NAA Ladies Committee and Singleton CWA are hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on **Saturday 23 May 2026 from 10am-12.30pm**. Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer. Scrumptious food, excellent raffles and more. \$20 per person payable at the door. Text Robyn on 0427 775 236 for catering numbers.

Diocesan Cursillo 3-Day Course

Do you wonder how to be more fully alive? If so, then you may like to consider attending our Cursillo 3-day course.

The annual Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 2026 Cursillo 3 days has the theme "Joy of the Lord is my strength".

The Cursillo is actually a short course that will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values, and will be asking each participant "*How can I **BE** Christian in my many everyday environments?*"

It will be held at Catalina Conference Centre, Rathmines from **7.30pm Thursday 11 June to 5.30pm Sunday 14 June** at a cost of \$360.00 per person (includes 3 nights accommodation and all meals).

The Cursillo movement has been alive and active across the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese since 1970. Cursillo represents a renewal within the life of the Church and is predominantly led by lay people – both men and women.

If you are interested in joining the Cursillo Movement, enrolling for the Cursillo 3 days, or just wishing to learn more about Cursillo, please feel free to contact either of the following:

- **DAVID McGOVERN**: 0493 394 323 or via email: livedogster@gmail.com
- **JOANNE STANDING**: 0401 438 967 or via email: joannestanding@gmail.com

Honouring the Month of Mary

The month of May has long been dedicated to *Mary, Mother of God*. As the earth flourishes with new life (spring in the northern hemisphere), we turn our hearts to the woman whose "yes" brought the Author of Life into our world. This month provides a beautiful opportunity to deepen our devotion and seek her maternal intercession.

Why May?

While Mary is honoured throughout the liturgical year, May is a special time for "May Crownings" and floral tributes. These traditions symbolize her queenship and the spiritual beauty she reflects. Just as gardens bloom during this season, our faith is invited to blossom through her guidance.

Ways to Observe the Month of Mary

- **Pray the Rosary:** Consider making the Rosary a daily habit. It is often described as a "compendium of the Gospel," allowing us to meditate on the life of Christ through Mary's eyes.
- **Create a Mary Garden:** Even a small indoor plant placed near a statue or image of Mary can serve as a focal point for prayer in your home.
- **The Angelus:** Praying the Angelus at dawn, noon, or sunset is a traditional way to pause and remember the Incarnation.
- **Acts of Charity:** Mary's life was one of humble service. Honor her by reaching out to a neighbour in need or volunteering for a parish ministry.

A Prayer for the Month

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us during this month dedicated to you.
Guide us closer to your Son, Jesus,
and help us to respond to God's call
with the same love and courage you showed. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

