



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

10 May 2026

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!
(R.)

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18
A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts,
and always have your answer ready for
people who ask you the reason for the
hope that you all have. But give it with

courtesy and respect and with a clear
conscience, so that those who slander you
when you are living a good life in Christ may
be proved wrong in the accusations that
they bring. And if it is the will of God that
you should suffer, it is better to suffer for
doing right than for doing wrong.
Why, Christ himself, innocent though he
was, had died once for sins, died for the
guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was
put to death, in the spirit he was raised to
life.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:15-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my
commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer
see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my
Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my
commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved
by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to
him.'

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



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

The Church, as Pope Leo XIV puts it, is called 'to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things.' Jesus calls us to 'remain in his love,' as the Pope reminds us, so that thereby 'he comes to dwell in us and our life will become a temple of God.'

Yet this indwelling of Jesus is more than a personal fuzzy feeling. 'His love enlightens us,' the Pope adds, which 'influences the way we think and act.' In our attitudes and actions, Jesus' love 'spreads outwards to others and embraces every situation in our lives.'

'This dwelling of God within us,' the Pope continues, 'is precisely the gift of the Holy Spirit, who takes us by the hand and enables us to experience God's presence and closeness amid our daily lives, for he makes us his home.' With that great mystery in mind, the Pope implores us to 'walk in the joy born of faith, in order to become a holy temple of the Lord.'

'Let us resolve to bring his love everywhere,' the Pope encourages us, 'never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering.'

[Quotes from Regina Caeli, 25 May 2025:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/angelus/2025/documents/20250525-regina-caeli.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.	We remember in our prayers: 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.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.	Recently Deceased: Milagros Stowe.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES The Ascension of the Lord, Year A 1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20	Anniversaries: Don Lynch, Margaret Trunk, Ivan Meyn, Jeremiah Lynch, Ivy Goodwin. 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 When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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
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	
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 17 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 12 May J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	D Clarke	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane A Wall	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		L Harrison	E Thomas	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	K Gould M Thomas	Helena Jeanette	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	M Aisleben	N Marzol	M Cunningham	

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
11 May	12 May <i>St Nereus & Achilleus St Pancras</i>	13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	14 May <i>ST MATTHIAS</i>	15 May	16 May	17 May <i>ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm LOTW 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 Calvary Cooinda	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00m Mass 5.00pm SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.50am Rosary 8.15am 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.

Parish Office Phone

The Parish Office is finally back up and ringing! Thank you for bearing with us while we had the issues sorted.

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.

St Catherine's Greta - Morning Tea

You are invited to stay after Mass at St Catherine's Church Greta on Sunday 31 May for morning tea and a chat with fellow parishioners.

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!

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

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.

Volunteer Week - "Your Year to Volunteer"

Volunteer Week begins Monday 18 May, and this year's theme - "Your Year to Volunteer" - is a beautiful reminder that every person has something life-giving to offer. As a faith community, we especially hold in prayer those who give their time to serve as Special Religious Education teachers in our local public schools. Their presence brings hope, connection, and the light of Christ to children who may not encounter it anywhere else.

This Volunteer Week, we gently and wholeheartedly invite you to consider whether this might be your year to step into this ministry. Becoming an SRE teacher is an act of love - a simple "yes" that can shape a child's understanding of faith for years to come. If you feel a nudge, a curiosity, or even the smallest spark, we would love to walk with you. Contact: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au | 5507 4048 or nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

Bishop's Staff Day

Our Parish is included in Bishop's Staff Day this year. We are calling on parishioners to take part on Tuesday 2 June, from 10:00am-2:00pm. This special gathering is an opportunity for diocesan staff to step out from their offices and into parish life to "come together around our shared mission" and connect more deeply with parish communities. Over 200 staff will be split into groups of 40 to visit one of seven parish sites, with our parish being one site. Your presence will help tell the story of our parish; it's faith, its people, it's quiet acts of service and hope. In meeting one another, we strengthen the bond that holds us together as the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Please consider being part of this important day. Speak to Fr Thomas to express your interest.

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).

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 or **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.

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.



Happy *Mother's Day*

Almighty God, we ask Your blessing on each mother today. Fill their hearts with laughter and joy. Surround them with love from family and friends. Grant them health, peace, and fulfillment as they pursue their calling. Let them know their value and worth in Your eyes and ours.

In Jesus' name, Amen.