



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

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

24 May 2026

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence

**Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.**

**Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!**

**Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;**

**Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.**

**Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:**

**If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.**

**Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:**

**Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.**

**Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:**

**Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.**



Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit;
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, José Joaquim De Sousa, Dulcie Maynard, Fleur McAlister, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, Rosita Watkinson, Sharon Wood, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Pam and Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Baptisms: Ellie Lodo, Arlie-Rae Shipley, Pippa-Kate Shipley (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God. Recently Deceased: Ester Villaluz. Anniversaries: Reverend Patrick Murphy, Russell Rapp, Rita Gresham, Daniel Beck, Rob Ash, Mark Furness, Lyn Karpel. 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: They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES The Most Holy Trinity, Year A 1st Reading: Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Gospel: John 3:16-18	
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	<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	<i>Principal: Mr David Crawford</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Mr Ashley Borg</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 31 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 26 May J Woolley
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	H Hartcher M Thomas	K Ingold	C Matanisiga B Matanisiga	Paulo Abenes	M Cunningham Kevin M	
Prayers		A Humphreys	C Spiteri	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Offertory	J Zaragoza K Zaragoza	Lynn Cecilia	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	J Cowley C Cowley	Kevin & Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister	N/A	N/A	M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
25 May <i>Mary, Help of Christians</i>	26 May <i>St Phillip Neri</i>	27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	28 May	29 May <i>St Paul VI</i>	30 May	31 May <i>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	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>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass 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> SCAE 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.

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!

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.

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

Pray for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.

Watch John's moving testimony and **download a free Red Rosary Prayer Card** at <https://aidtochurch.ac-page.com/red-rosary-download-prayer-card>

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.

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

Apologetics with Dr Robert Haddad in Kurri Kurri

Vineyards Catholic Parishes invites you to join them for three talks on the Eucharist presented by Catholic apologist, Dr. Robert Haddad. Dr. Robert Haddad is a passionate teacher, apologist and evangelist who holds firmly to all the truths of the Catholic faith and wishes all to come to know, love and live this faith. Robert promotes Catholicism through his public speaking tours, videos and books. Come to one talk, come to any, come to all.

- Holy Mass at Kurri Kurri Church 9am on Saturday. Vigil Mass at Cessnock Church 6pm.
- Refreshments provided on Friday evening. Lunch is provided on Saturday.
- Bring a plate to share on Saturday for morning tea.
- Dr. Haddad's books for sale (EFTPOS or cash).
- Cash donations are welcome to support the speaker.
- Register if you will be coming, for catering purposes.

Friday June 12 & Saturday June 13 at Kurri Kurri Parish Hall, 102 Barton Street, Kurri Kurri NSW. For more information contact Yvonne 0450 323 206. Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/apologetics-with-dr-robert-haddad-at-kurri-kurri-parish/>



Project 33 - A House for Omana

Can you help contribute to providing a safe and dignified home for Omana?

Omana faces significant daily challenges; she is a person with a disability, having lost her leg due to complications from severe diabetes. She currently resides with her son, a seasonal agricultural labourer, whose modest income is not enough to cover the costs of a stable home.

While a local government grant of **Rs 500,000** has been secured to begin construction, it falls short of the amount needed to make the house liveable. An additional **Rs 200,000 (\$2898 AUD)** is required to complete the structure and ensure Omana has a roof over her head.

How You Can Help: Any amount, large or small, will go directly toward the completion of Omana's home, bridging the gap to provide her with the security and comfort she deserves.

Donation Details:

- Place your donation in the HOPE TREE Collection box at Mass
- Click on the DONATE button on our parish website <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au/> to make an online or electronic transfer donation.

Thank you for your continued compassion and for being the "hope" in the Hope Tree Group. Together, we can help Omana move into her new home.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Pentecost

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.



Your support today can help deliver lifesaving food, clean water and vital medicines to families enduring conflict, hunger and displacement.



DONATE NOW

caritas.org.au/make-hunger-history