

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**28 June 2026**

**First Reading 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16**  
*A reading from the second book of the Kings*

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2**

**(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord..**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;  
it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Romans 6:3-4. 8-11**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by

the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation 1 Peter 2:9**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.**  
**Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Matthew 10:37-42**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

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

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**REFLECTION**  
**BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

*Christianity not a Cult*

In the early Church, Christianity ripped families apart. Good Jewish families would have been appalled to see their sons and daughters go off to follow a crucified blasphemer. Good reason to keep apart in the synagogue, avoiding damnable pollution. This sectarianism contrasted with the Christians who fearlessly went out into the world.

St John Paul II personified what it is to be Catholic. But, he pressed a prayer into a crack in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and as an old man shuffled across the floor of a Mosque in Syria.

Of course, there was no compromise of belief and faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, denied by both Jews and Muslims. But his actions were not those of one with the siege mentality of the member of a cult. Rather, he was able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to take these steps recognising what was good amongst the adherents of those faiths.

We could pause for a moment to implore the Holy Spirit to break us out from any constricting cult-like tendencies so that we can go out into the world powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia, was ordained in May 2000, and was a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart until his death in June 2026.*

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!	<b>We remember in our prayers:</b>  <b>Sick:</b> 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, Vlad and Zoe. <b>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</b>  <b>Recently Deceased:</b> Victims of the earthquake in Venezuela.  <b>Anniversaries:</b> Herbert Banister, Leo Ernst, Philomena Matthews, Cheryl Nesbitt, Kevin Nowlan.  <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>Baptisms:</b> Oaklen Van Rooyen, Kingsley Van Rooyen, Oakley Chandler (Greta). <b>Called by name to be a child of God.</b>
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.	
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A <b>1st Reading:</b> Zechariah 9:9-10 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Romans 8:9.11-13 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 11:25-30	
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

<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>	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 5 JULY 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 5pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	<i>Tues 30 June G McMillan C Langford</i>
<b>Commentator</b>		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		A Humphreys	P Boyd	N Marzol	Kevin M	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas K Gould	J & D Clarke	G Cattermole	T & P Abenes	Kevin and Jonathon M	
<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	N/A	N/A	M Alsleben	A Grant N Marzol	A Borg	

*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>29 June</b> <i>STS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES</i>	<b>30 June</b> <i>First Martyrs of Rome</i>	<b>1 July</b>	<b>2 July</b>	<b>3 July</b> <i>ST THOMAS, APOSTLE</i>	<b>4 July</b> <i>St Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	<b>5 July</b> <i>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A</i>
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <b>Benediction &amp; Adoration</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Novena</b> <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00m</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

***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.

## **St Brigid's Cleaning Roster**

We are currently updating the church cleaning roster for St Brigid's, Branxton, as some of our valued volunteers are stepping aside.

- **Current Volunteers:** You will be automatically included in the new roster.
- **New Volunteers:** We would love your help! If you would like to join the team, please speak with Mercia.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to keeping our church clean and welcoming.

## **St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass**

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on **Saturday 3 July 2026 at 9.20am**. We will be offering Mass for *Fay Lea and Bruce Ryan* as well as all those whose anniversaries occur in July.

*This Mass is a very special ministry of the St Patrick's Women's Guild. If you would like to assist them to commemorate the anniversaries of our parishioners, please speak to Elaine Thomas or Jennifer Tindale.*

## **Can you help share the Sacristan Role in Branxton?**

Our wonderful Ann Keegan has generously stepped into the Sacristan role, but she will be away from **23 June to 4 September**. To keep things running smoothly while she is away, we are looking for **one or two people** to step in and share the load. Sharing the role means the time commitment is light, and it's a beautiful, practical way to support our parish community behind the scenes. Ann is happy to show you the ropes before she heads off, so you'll feel completely comfortable and prepared. If you can lend a hand—either for a few weeks or the whole duration—please chat with Ann or Fr Thomas after Mass or contact the parish office. Thank you for considering this vital ministry!

## **Help Make a Difference this Winter**

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has launched its 2026 Make a Difference Appeal, and we need your help. Each week, CatholicCare serves more than 1,000 meals through our Community Kitchens, providing a warm meal, connection and support to people experiencing hardship across our region. Supporting the vulnerable is at the heart of our Church's mission, and every donation helps CatholicCare continue this vital work. Donations made before 30 June are tax-deductible. Please consider making a gift today and help make a difference in the lives of local people.

Donate now - Link or QR Code

[www.mycause.com.au/makeadifferenceappeal2026](http://www.mycause.com.au/makeadifferenceappeal2026)

## **A Sacred Choice for Tomorrow: Pre-Planning Today**

Resting in the consecrated grounds of your own parish is a beautiful testament to a life lived in faith. We invite our parishioners to consider the benefits of pre-planning their final arrangements in Singleton, Branxton or Glendonbrook.



**Now Available:** Burial plots in our lawn cemeteries and columbarium niches for cremated remains.

**Why Pre-Plan?** Lock in current pricing, secure your preferred location, and give your family a lasting gift of clarity and peace.

For pricing, availability, or to discuss pre-needed options, please contact the Parish Office.

## **July Events in the Diocesan Resource Centre**

**Saturday 4 July, 11am,**

Gather for a screening and discussion of *Mary Magdalene* (2018), reflecting on the life and witness of one of the Church's most faithful disciples ahead of her feast day and the 2026 Magdalene Awards. Morning tea and lunch provided. To register <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/formation-films/>

**Wednesday 8 - Friday 27 July (10am-2pm)**

Browse our Pre-Loved Book Sale, featuring religious and general-interest books, with most titles just \$5. All proceeds support the outreach work of CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning.

## **Young Adult Retreat 2026: To Be Human**

**Friday 17 July - Sunday 19 July, Camp Elim Forster**

The Young Adult Retreat returns this year, inviting young adults aged 18-35 to explore what it means To Be Human and fully alive in this life and for eternity. This retreat offers a unique opportunity to deepen your faith, build lasting friendships, and connect with other young adults from across the Diocese. Featuring expert speakers from around NSW and Australia, a dynamic and engaging program, praise and worship, and the sacraments, this promises to be a transformative weekend. Register: <https://ALIVEYA26.eventbrite.com.au>

## **The Synodal Way**

**Wednesday 12 August 2026, Convent Muswellbrook 6-8pm**

**A Journey into what the inspiration of the Global Synod now asks of us.**

*Come and discover what the Synod has called the Church to become and what that invitation means for us here in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle today.*

The Synod on Synodality has been described as one of the most significant events in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II. For the first time, lay women and men joined bishops in the Synod Assembly with equal voting rights. Shortly afterwards, Pope Francis adopted the Final Document as part of the ordinary teaching of the Church.

Join us for a regional gathering as we explore the key themes of the Final Document, unpack the vision of Communion, Participation and Mission, the implementation phase now underway, and opportunities to become involved in local Synodal Teams.

Please bring a plate to share and register your attendance.



# EUCCHARIST 28

## THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

What does faith teach us about the Eucharist? Across the centuries, the Catholic Church has consistently professed that the Eucharist is not a mere symbol, but the **true, real, and substantial presence of Jesus Christ**.

### A Mystery of Faith & Scripture

- **Scriptural Foundations:** The Eucharist is rooted in Christ's feeding of the five thousand, His declaration as the "bread of life" (John 6:33), and His words of institution at the Last Supper.
- **Beyond the Senses:** As St. Thomas Aquinas noted, Christ's presence cannot be apprehended by our senses, but only by faith resting on divine authority.

### What is Transubstantiation?

The Church uses the word **transubstantiation** to describe the unique conversion that takes place at the altar. Through the consecration of the priest:

- The entire substance of the bread is changed into Christ's body, and the entire substance of the wine into His blood.
- Only the *appearances* (species) of bread and wine remain.
- Beneath these appearances, Christ is present whole and entire in His physical and ontological reality—meaning the very nature of what is there has changed.

### Insights from the Popes

- **Pope Paul VI (*Mysterium Fidei*):** Strongly rejected the idea that the Eucharist is just a symbol of spiritual union. Quoting the early Church, he reminded us that the bread and wine become the actual flesh and blood of our Savior.
- **St. John Paul II (*Mane Nobiscum Domine*):** Reminded us that we must approach the altar fully aware that we are approaching Christ Himself, which elevates the Mass far beyond a symbolic meal.
- **Pope Benedict XVI (*Sacramentum Caritatis*):** Described this substantial conversion as a radical change—a sort of spiritual "nuclear fission" meant to ultimately transform and transfigure the entire world.
- **Pope Francis (2014):** Emphasized that the celebration is the central mystery of our salvation and the exact memorial of Jesus' Paschal Sacrifice.
- **Pope Leo XIV (2025):** Beautifully summarized the ultimate purpose of the sacrament: "*The Saviour... transforms bread into himself in order to transform us into himself.*"

**A Reflection for the Week:** *At every Mass, the Sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated for us. It is a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, and a pledge of future glory. When we receive Holy Communion, let us approach with deep awe, gratitude, and a desire to be transformed by Him.*