



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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

ATSI Sunday

5 July 2026

First Reading **Zechariah 9:9-10**
A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of
Jerusalem!

See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.

He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14 R. v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my
king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 8:9.11-13**
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.*

Your interests are not in the unspiritual,
but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God
has made his home in you. In fact, unless
you possessed the Spirit of Christ you
would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of
him who raised Jesus from the dead is
living in you, then he who raised Jesus from
the dead will give life to your own mortal
bodies through his Spirit living in you.
So then, my brothers, there is no necessity
for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to
live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that
way, you are doomed to die; but if by the
Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of
the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;**
**you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.**
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 11:25-30**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord
of heaven and of earth, for hiding these
things from the learned and the clever and
revealing them to mere children. Yes,
Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.
Everything has been entrusted to me by my
Father; and no one knows the Son except
the Father, just as no one knows the Father
except the Son and those to whom the Son
chooses to reveal him.
'Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened, and I will give you rest.
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you
will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is
easy and my burden light.'

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



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, wealth is increasingly 'concentrated in fewer hands, widening inequalities.' The result of this is stark. Entire regions 'lack the essential equipment needed to save millions of human lives,' he points out. This is an intolerable burden which Christians are called to face with honesty and charity.

As the Pope points out, a Christian response to social inequality includes supporting 'tax systems that lighten the burden on the weakest and ask for more from those with greater resources.' Through such mechanisms we can alleviate many woes.

This duty is not something we can postpone until we have a surplus with which to act generously. Rather, as the Pope explains, we are called to recognise that 'justice concerns every phase of economic activity, from resource acquisition to financing, and from production to consumption.'

Therefore, we have a responsibility to seek transparency and accountability in our economic systems. We are called to foster 'inclusion and access'. As the Pope says succinctly, 'every choice has moral consequences.' Christ calls us to see him as the lifter of burdens, certainly, but he also calls us to become uplifters too.

Quotes from *Magnifica Humanitas*, 157-164:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.	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, Betty Thompson, Rosita Watkinson, Sharon Wood, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Pam, Vlad and Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.	Recently Deceased: John Fernandes, Kenneth Hurrel, Gerald Stevenson, Teresa Tanks (Funeral 14 July 11am Singleton).
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11 2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23	Anniversaries: James Bailey, Flo Crouch, Maria Fuller, Edgardo Paschal, Ted Meyn. 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.	Baptisms: Lily and Asher Bendeich, Miles Ashford (Branxton). Jack Algíe, Asher Dixon, Eleanor Gray (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.

PARISH CONTACTS			
Parish Administrator	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Rev Peter Street	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: peter.street@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	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 12 JULY 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 7 July G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	M Thomas S Purdon	F Tomy	J Duldulao H Duldulao	R James	T Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	A Trunk S McAlister	Helena Cecilia	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Cowley	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister			J Dunn	T & A Cochrane	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
6 July <i>St Maria Goretti</i>	7 July <i>St Peter To Rot</i>	8 July	9 July <i>St Augustine Zhao Rong & companions</i>	10 July	11 July <i>St Benedict</i>	12 July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
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>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<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> 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.

Can you help share the Sacristan Role in Branxton?

Our wonderful Ann Keegan has generously stepped into the Sacristan role, but she is now away until 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!

Greta-Branxton Vinnies Winter Appeal

The annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held next weekend on Saturday 11 July at St Brigid's, Branxton, and Sunday 12 July at St Catherine's, Greta. Your generosity helps Vinnies provide vital support to vulnerable members of our local community during these cold winter months. Thank you for your continued care and charity.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles will hold their monthly lunch on Tuesday 14 July 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 15 July at 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights. New members most welcome.

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



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.

July International Eucharistic Congress 2028 Update

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028!

Eucharist28's theme, '*This is My Body, Given For You*', invites us to reflect on Christ's words as he instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice. At each Mass, the priest repeats Jesus' words from the Last Supper, and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. As we receive the Eucharist, we are called to carry His presence into our homes, workplaces, schools, parishes and communities. We're invited to allow Christ's presence to transform us as we share in the breaking of the bread. The journey begins now. Keep updated at <https://www.eucharist28.org/>

Nourishment Day 2026: Refreshing the Hearts of Parish Musicians

Saturday 8 August, 10am-3pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral

Choir members, cantors, instrumentalists, coordinators, this one's for you. Step away from the weekly routine, renew your spirit, and connect with fellow musicians from across the Diocese as we explore music's vital role in the Church's prayer and mission. "*Sing to the Lord a new song.*" Psalm 96

to register for this event scan QR code or go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>.



Faith Stories and Miraculous Healing Testimony

Friday 10 July (6.15pm-9pm) and Saturday 11 July (10am-4pm)

Presented by Kurri Kurri Church: Our Catholic Faith has many treasures, from the Holy Mass to the Eucharist to the Sacraments to the Blessed Mother to the Saints to even unexplainable events like miraculous healings that science and medicine cannot explain. Join us at Vineyards Catholic Parishes for three talks on two of the Church's newest Saints – St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis, and our Blessed Mother presented by Paul Elarde, and a miraculous healing testimony at Lourdes from his wife, Juliana.

10 JULY Talk 1 Our Newest Saints! Part 1: St. Pier Giorgio Frassati



11 JULY Talk 2 Our Newest Saints! Part 2: St. Carlo Acutis,

Talk 3 Why Mary Matters?

Talk 4 - Testimony by Juliana Elarde: "I walked out of my wheelchair in Lourdes"

Contact Yvonne on 0450 323 206. Register using QR code or go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Venezuela Earthquake Emergency Appeal

Two powerful earthquakes devastated Venezuela on 24 June, leaving hundreds dead, families homeless, and churches badly damaged.

More than 2,200 people have been killed and more than 11,000 were injured. Tens of thousands of people remain unaccounted for and are feared trapped under rubble, while thousands are living on the streets and in need of shelter, their houses destroyed or at risk of further collapse.

The Cathedral of Caracas and numerous parishes have been damaged. A parish church and rectory have completely collapsed. The diocesan seminary in La Guaira has suffered extensive destruction.

Acting as the hands and feet of Christ, local churches are opening their doors to shelter families who have nowhere else to go.

Through local partners, ACN is providing rapid support to the Church in Venezuela. We will also provide essential funds for the reconstruction of churches and church buildings damaged by the earthquake, including the seminary of La Guaira.

Your gift today will provide emergency support to the local Church community and provide vital funds to rebuild in the months ahead.

Next Sunday, 12 July 2026, our Parish churches will collect donations, and these will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need. Please give generously. You can scan QR code to donate via the ACN website <https://aidtochurch.org/venezuela-earthquake>.



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2026

We acknowledge the Wonnarua Peoples, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land 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.

Welcome to this year's celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. As we gather in faith, we do so as a people shaped by story — by the Gospel, by culture, and by the journeys that have brought us to this moment. We gather in the presence of God, who walks with us always, and who calls us into unity as one people.

This year invites us into reflection. We mark 40 years since St Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs, and we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week. These milestones are more than anniversaries — they are reminders of enduring faith, resilience, and our shared call to walk together. At times, it is important to look back. Not to dwell in the past, but to recognise the path that has been travelled — to see the strength, the challenges, and the grace that have carried us forward. In this, we trust in God's providence, present in every step of our journey.

Our theme, **Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!**, speaks to this moment. It calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope - listening deeply, and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Across this land, the Church is enriched by the cultures and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Their spirituality, connection to Country, and deep sense of community continue to shape and strengthen the life of the Church in Australia. As St Pope John Paul II reminded us, the Church is enriched by the many cultures it embraces. This is not something we simply acknowledge — it is something we are called to live. Today's Liturgy is an invitation to listen to, reflect, and to encounter Christ in one another.

Wherever you are gathered — in Parish, school, or community — may this celebration be a moment of grace. May it renew our hearts, deepen our unity, and strengthen our commitment to walk together in faith. We thank you for being part of this journey.

