

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sea Sunday

12 July 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
(R.)

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;

all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (SHORTER FORM)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Every generation is called to reflect on how we receive Christ's teaching. Like the crowds on the shore who listened to Jesus speak from the boat, we have to be open to hearing the unexpected.

In this sense Pope Leo XIV gives good advice. He comments that 'communion within the Church is not built by clinging rigidly to one's own position'. Rather, we should listen first and thereby come to understanding.

As the Pope explains, we are called to seek 'points of encounter in the Truth, in whose light alone each person becomes a means of growth for another.' What he means is that we are not meant to be 'good soil' for God's Word only on an individual level. Rather, as a community we are called to make the soil good for all. That's where our individual responsibility becomes part of a larger whole. Each of us has a unique role to play in the ecosystem of faith!

Elaborating on this, the Pope invites 'every Christian to become a builder of unity, placing God at the centre of one's life and drawing close to one's brothers and sisters, attentive to their circumstances and needs.'

'In this way,' he says, 'we learn to live with one another in charity, so that the message might be fully proclaimed.'

Quotes from Homily, 29 June 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260629-pietro-e-paolo.html>

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, José Joaquim De Sousa, Liz and Victor Matt, Dulcie Maynard, Fleur McAlister, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, John Tindale, 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. Recently Deceased: Michael Boyle, Brian Clerk, Ellen Hughes, Rosemary Tucker, Teresa Tanks (Funeral 14 July 11am Singleton). Anniversaries: Betty Bates, Jim Bates, Ellen Holz, Warren Markham, Clara Thomas. 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.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27 Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43	
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	
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	
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)				
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		
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 19 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	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Readers	C Conroy S Stafa	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane T Cruz-Abenes	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		D Clarke	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	Colleen Norma	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister			M Alsleben	R James John	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 13 July St Henry	Tuesday 14 July St Camillus de Lellis	Wednesday 15 July St Bonaventure	Thursday 16 July Our Lady of Mt Carmel	Friday 17 July	Saturday 18 July	Sunday 12 July SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
8.00am Mass 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 Cooinda	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		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 Hours This Week

The Parish Office will be OPEN Monday 13 July and CLOSED Tuesday 14 July and Friday 17 July.

No More Weekly Giving Envelopes

A friendly reminder that planned giving envelopes are no longer being provided. Parishioners who previously used these envelopes for their generous weekly donations are kindly asked to place their contribution directly into the 2nd Collection plate. There is no need to use an envelope, as these donations are no longer being individually recorded. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

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.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet again for their monthly lunch on Friday 17 July 2026 at 12pm in the Miller Park Hotel. All parishioners are invited to join them!

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>.



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/>

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>

Book Sale!

Now until Friday 24 July, 10am-2pm, Diocesan Resource Centre
Someone's favourite book is waiting to become your new favourite book! At our pre-loved book sale, you'll find religious texts, non-religious reads, and a few hidden gems, all lovingly passed on and ready for a new home. All proceeds support the outreach work of CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning. Card sales only, most items \$5 or under.

For more information call Mary on 0409033449 or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



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>.



bit.ly/SeaSunday2026

Sea Sunday APPEAL

12 JULY 2026

Your donation supports the mission and ministry of Stella Maris Australia. Scan the QR code to make a payment.



Spot the difference
Can you spot the 6 differences?



The Mission to Seafarers has been caring for seafarers for over 170 years. One of the ways that they care for seafarers is by having their chaplain visit them on their ships. The chaplains are there to offer help with anything from providing access to the internet and transport to shops, to offering advice and helping them contact their families. You can help by donating to the 2026 Appeal.