

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

19 July 2026

First Reading Wisdom 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:26-27

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

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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 13:24-30

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

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

'The Gospel', Pope Leo says, 'resounds where peoples meet.' Exclusion is not Christ's way – encounter is.

The Gospel 'falls silent,' the Pope warns, 'when each person makes him or herself an island, avoiding contact and cutting off exchange.' We must never presume another person to be darnel, unworthy to be counted among us.

Individuals and groups may exclude themselves from the Church, but we are not called to exclude them. 'There is no love of God without love of neighbour,' the Pope reminds us, 'and there is no neighbour if I do not draw near.' We are called to help the wayward and lost, not reject them.

This also applies at a societal level, regarding those with beliefs or cultures different from our own. 'It is time', the Pope states emphatically, 'to recognise and affirm that religious affiliation must never become a reason for discrimination.' The Pope implores us all to 'give spiritual, cultural, legal, political and economic expression to the civilisation of love.'

We might not all be lawmakers, but we can take up this call. 'The parish, in particular,' the Pope added, 'should be a community where, guided by the Gospel, we learn to welcome, accompany and integrate one another in a spirit of communion.'

*Quotes from Homily at Lampedusa, 4 July 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260704-lampedusa-messa.html>*

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.	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.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12 2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30 Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52	Recently Deceased: Barry Watson (Weds 22/7/26, St Patrick's) Anniversaries: Very Rev Peter Meagher, John Cullen Browne, Janice Tierney. 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: Isla Kearney (Branxton). Sage Habener, Niamh Keane, Giuseppe Lombardo (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
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 26 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	Tuesday 21 July G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	J & S Stafa	K Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson A Jacob	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	H Dudulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	S McAlister S Trunk	Joan Jeanette	J Tindale E Thomas	A Jacob, B Jacob A Jacob	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 20 July St Apollinaris	Tuesday 21 July St Lawrence of Brindisi	Wednesday 22 July ST MARY MAGDALENE	Thursday 23 July St Bridget	Friday 24 July St Sharbel Makhlof	Saturday 25 July ST JAMES	Sunday 26 July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
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 Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	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.

No More Weekly Giving Envelopes

A friendly reminder that planned giving envelopes are no longer being provided and Tax Receipts will NOT be issued for 2025-26. 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!

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.

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>.



Thank You from Stella Maris

Thank you for your generosity and contribution to Stella Maris, SEA SUNDAY Appeal last Sunday 12 July 2026. Every donation helps Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers be there, on ships, in ports, and in hospitals. **Parishioners at Greta raised \$315.00**

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/>

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 – Venezuela 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. 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 will provide emergency support to the local Church community and provide vital funds to rebuild in the months ahead. Donate via the ACN website <https://aidtochurch.org/venezuela-earthquake>

Our appeal last weekend raised at total of \$1205.95 – thank you to everyone who donated.

Support For Kairos Program at St Heliers Muswellbrook

Kairos is an Ecumenical Christian ministry that aims to give the men a focus for a future that is hopeful despite any mistakes of the past. It is specifically about rehabilitation and not incarceration. St Heliers in many ways gives men an opportunity to obtain skills which will help them in the future. *Kairos Inside* has a one-week course each year which is followed up by monthly one day meetings. All these take place inside St Heliers. This year we are holding a course from the **28 September to the 2 October 2026**. One of the aspects of this ministry is the hospitality that we offer the inmates who attend each session. Financial support for this ministry comes from our team members and the wider community. We would greatly appreciate your continuing prayers and support for this important ministry. For more information or to register for the course, please contact Tony Farmer at kistheliers@kairos.org.au or go to the website www.kairos.org.au

Called to Know More – How Does Faith Guide

Wednesday 26 August, 12pm – 1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre Join us for **Morality 101: The Joy of Christian Living in a Morally Crazy World** with Fr Anthony Coloma, exploring moral choices through "encounter" with Jesus via Scripture, Eucharist, and prayer. Discover how hardship shapes faith, and God's welcoming love for those who have drifted. Come listen, share, and enjoy hospitality afterward! All welcome. Learn more and register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/morality-101-the-joy-of-christian-living-in-a-morally-crazy-world/>



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC
CONGRESS 2028
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

UNITY IN THE EUCCHARIST

Saint Spotlight: St Ignatius of Antioch

In 110 AD, St. Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch, was marched in chains to Rome to face execution by wild beasts. A disciple of St. John the Evangelist, Ignatius learned about the glory of Christ's self-giving directly from one who had sat at the Last Supper.

As he travelled toward his martyrdom, he wrote a series of letters to fellow Christians, leaving us a profound legacy on the reality of the Eucharist. He famously begged his friends not to try and save him, declaring:

"Let me be the food of beasts that I may come to God. I am his wheat, and I shall be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may become Christ's pure bread."

The Eucharistic Challenge

For St. Ignatius, the Eucharist was not an abstract concept. Just as Christ pours out everything He is for us, Ignatius yearned to give his own body completely to be unified with Christ's eucharistic action. He recognized that when we give everything up for Christ, we gain more than the world could ever imagine.

His words reach down through the millennia to challenge us today: **Do we have Jesus Christ on our lips, but the world in our hearts?** To be truly Christian is to be eucharistic—to receive the Bread of God as our true sustenance and, in turn, pour ourselves out in love for the world.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, pray for us that our lives may become the wheat that Christ mills into his finest flour.



Help the farmer scatter the seed and find the path to the wheat. Keep a look out for weeds!

