

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

World Day for Grandparents & The Elderly

26 July 2026

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

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

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo reminds us that 'the Lord continues to go before us in history, and the Church is called first and foremost to recognise his presence.' If we truly believe this, then we have our treasure already! But with it comes responsibility.

As the Pope points out, we are called to work for unity. 'Communion is never a result that is achieved once and for all,' he points out. Rather, 'it remains a daily conversion, which takes shape in prayer, and through concrete actions, relationships of trust, and a willingness to listen to one another.'

Similarly, we are called to work for the common good. This 'does not arise spontaneously,' he says, 'but requires shared responsibility.' For we Christians, the Pope adds, 'this takes on a very specific form: a synodal style at the service of the mission of the Kingdom.'

Elaborating further, the Pope highlights how 'synodality is an attitude, an openness, a willingness to understand.' It is an approach to serving the Kingdom, he reminds Church leaders, that helps us 'to listen to what is emerging in the Churches, to recognise the signs of hope that often grow in silence.'

Quotes from Opening Address for the extraordinary consistory, 26 June 2026:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/giugno/documents/20260626-concistoro-straordinario.html>

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, José Joaquim De Sousa, Conchita Ekin, 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, Roslyn, Vlad and Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Karen Jones (Branxton Weds 5/8, 11am), Sr Julie Rees RSM (Glendale 30/7, burial Singleton 2.30pm). Anniversaries: Mollie Bogan, Lester Bogan, Bill Burton, Des Carroll, Colin Crow, Barry Davy, Frank Dunn, Maisie Hall, Adrian Klasen, Margaretha Klasen, Shirley McAleer, Edna Street, Margaret Young. 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. Baptisms: Hugo Duncan, Eleanor Street, Kingsley Street (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3 2nd Reading: Romans 8:35. 37-39 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21	
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
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)			
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<i>Greta</i>	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 2 AUGUST 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 28 July J Woolley
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	N Marzol	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	D Clarke	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	N Marzol	Kevin M	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	Lynn Joy	G Cattermole	T Abenes P Abenes	Kevin Jonathon	
Extraordinary Minister			M Alsleben	A Grant (N Marzol)	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 27 July	Tuesday 28 July	Wednesday 29 July <i>Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>	Thursday 30 July <i>St Peter Chrysologus</i>	Friday 31 July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	Saturday 1 August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	Sunday 2 August EIGHTEENTH 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 Mass Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass Glendonbrook	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.

St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass

Saturday 1 August 2026, 9.20am, St Patrick's Church Singleton
We will be offering Mass for Monica Brady as well as all those whose anniversaries occur in August.

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.

Anointing Mass - Branxton

Thursday 10 September 2026, 9.20am St Brigid's Branxton
Morning tea will follow in the hall! This will be the last Anointing Mass by Father Thomas, and we would like to make it an 'EARLY' farewell to him and we would like as many as possible to attend the Morning tea! Please join us and if possible please bring a plate.

Thánh lễ Xức Dầu tại Nhà thờ Thánh Brigid

Thứ Năm, ngày 10 tháng 9 lúc 9:20 sáng
Sau thánh lễ sẽ có tiệc trà buổi sáng tại hội trường!
Đây sẽ là Thánh lễ Xức Dầu cuối cùng do Cha Thomas chủ sự. Chúng tôi muốn nhân dịp này gửi lời chia tay sớm đến ngài và rất mong có càng nhiều người tham dự buổi tiệc trà càng tốt.
Xin mời quý vị cùng tham dự. Nếu có thể, vui lòng mang theo một món ăn để chia sẻ.
Xin Chúa chúc lành cho quý vị. Mercia

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.

Prayers for the Sick List

The Prayers for the Sick list will be cleared after today's Mass. If you wish a name to remain, please contact the parish office or place an envelope with the names on the collection plate.

Magnifica Humanitas – The Grandeur of Humanity

In May this year the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV released the first Encyclical of his Pontificate, entitled "Magnifica Humanitas" or "the Grandeur of Humanity." Over the next few weeks, Fr Peter will be summarising the various sections of this document, starting next week with the introduction, followed then by the 5 chapters and the conclusion. It is the hope that our parishes may gain some insight from the wisdom of the Holy Father on the safeguarding of the human person in the time of artificial intelligence. This encyclical of Pope Leo XIV was written to mark the 135th anniversary of the Encyclical "Rerum Novarum" by Pope Leo XIII.

SRE Training and Encouragement Day

Saturday 22 August 2026, 10:00am-1:00pm - Singleton

For current Scripture teachers, and those interested in teaching SRE.

- Tips for Special Needs students
- Answering tricky questions
- Tips for recruitment
- Learning songs and MORE!

Morning Tea will be provided. Lunch will be soup for a gold coin or Bacon and Egg Roll for \$5.00 (need to be pre-ordered).

To book go to <https://huntersre.com.au> or Ph: 0490 130 576

Note: This on-going training is accepted by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic SRE Teacher, contact mission@mn.catholic.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/>

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





World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU

Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

In his message for this year's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Leo XIV brings us a message of deep comfort, reminding us of God's unbreakable promise: *"I will never forget you"*.

Key takeaways from the Holy Father's message:

- **Overcoming Loneliness:** Many elderly people suffer from the painful feeling of being forgotten, whether living in isolation at home or feeling reduced to a bed number in care facilities. The Church is called to be a mother to all, ensuring no one feels abandoned.
- **A Call to Visit:** Pope Leo strongly encourages everyone—especially the young—to revive the custom of visiting grandparents, elderly family members, and those living alone. Our presence makes God's tender care tangible.
- **No Age Limit on Faith:** Reaching old age is a profound time to discover or renew one's relationship with God. Old age is not a time of uselessness, but a season to embrace God's paternal and maternal love.
- **The Gift of Fragility:** Rather than fearing physical weakness, the Pope notes that acknowledging our fragility opens our hearts to mutual support, reconciliation, and true peace.
- **Ambassadors of Peace:** In a world troubled by conflict, the Pope urges the elderly—the "new people"—to join him in praying earnestly for peace for the sake of future generations.

"In an era that favours speed and fragmentation... the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness." — Pope Leo XIV.

Prayer for the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

*Holy Father
Who watches over every person
Watch over me too when I am elderly.
You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
And You were not discouraged by my frailties.
You hold me tenderly in your hands,
And You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (see Is 49:15).*



*Grant that I may not fear my weakness;
Help me learn to love it
Just as You love it.
Help me learn to listen to it
Just as You listen to it.
Help me embrace it
Just as You have chosen it –
You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility.
May growing old strip away all our pride and all division
So that we may live these years united in You.
You will never forget us! (see Is 49:15)*

Amen.