

First Reading **Isaiah 55:1-3**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have
good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting
covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

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.)**

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 8:35. 37-39**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:4**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.**
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 14:13-21**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Jesus did not ask the crowds for identification before he fed them. He encountered need and responded generously.

Pope Leo comments on how 'Catholics are called to imbue every dimension of their existence with the charity of Christ.' As the Pope noted, 'living out the Gospel in the circumstances of daily life ... has given rise to the many benefits that the Church has provided over the years.' Advances in education, welfare, healthcare, and so on, all flow from this straightforward principle.

But none of this is done for Catholics alone. Living out the Gospel means truly seeing that every person is 'endowed with an inherent worth that calls for reverence, protection and care.' As the Pope reminds us, we all have a part to play in 'building a society in which the vulnerable, the suffering and the forgotten are always met with compassion, solidarity and love.' They do not need to be Christian before they can be helped.

This, the Pope adds, especially 'includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants' who help build up the nations in which we live. 'To receive them with compassion and generosity is not only an act of charity,' he points out, 'but also a recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human person.'

Quotes from Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the USA:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/letters/2026/documents/20260625-lettera-anniversario-usa.html>

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Conchita Ekin, Salvation Martinez, Liz and Victor Matt, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, John Tindale, Betty Thompson, Sharon Wood, Roslyn. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Karen Jones (Branxton Weds 5/8, 11am), John Burnett. Anniversaries: Terry Clarke, John Lynch, Des March, Corrie McAleer. 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: Jye Debreceny, Jordie Debreceny, Theo Adam (Branxton), Billy Reibel, Evander Lane, Evie Alexander (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:11-13 2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33	
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 9 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 4 August J Brackenrig
Commentator		F Tomy	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	L Harrison	J Duldulao H Duldulao	F King R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		F Tomy	C Langford	F King	N Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Helena Norma	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Cowley	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister			J Dunn	T Cochrane (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
3 August St Dominic	4 August St John Vianney	5 August The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major	6 August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	7 August St Sixtus II & Companions St Cajetan	8 August St Mary of the Cross (Mary Mackillop)	9 August NINETEENTH 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 Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<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>5.30pm</u> Confirmation Practice St Brigid's Branxton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>6.00pm</u> Vigil Mass (St Mary of the Cross) 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 <u>4.00pm</u> Mass Confirmation St Brigid's Branxton

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.

Feast of St Mary of the Cross and The Assumption

Fr Peter will be saying Vigil Mass at 6pm in St Brigid's Branxton on Friday 7 August for the feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mary Mackillop) and on Friday 14 August for the feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Vocations Awareness Week 2-9 August 2026

Listen to what God is asking of you and have the courage to say yes.

This week, our Church in Australia celebrates **National Vocations Awareness Week**. It is a special time dedicated to praying for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, as well as encouraging marriage and single life lived in faith.

We ask all parishioners to pray this week for the young men and women of our community - that they may hear God's whisper in their hearts and find the courage and generous spirit to respond.

Branxton Parish Sacramental Program

Sunday 9 August 2026, 4.00pm St Brigid's Branxton

Candidates from the Branxton Parish will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion at a very special Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy. Parishioners are invited to join them and their families as they celebrate this special rite of initiation. Please keep them in your prayers as they complete their final preparations for their special day.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Friday 14 August 2026, 12.00pm St Brigid's Branxton

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite all parishioners to join them for lunch and fellowship at the Miller Park Hotel. They look forward to seeing you there.

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.

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 using the QR code above or at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/the-synodal-way-a-journey-into-what-the-global-synod-now-asks-of-us/>

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

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

Calling for EOLs – Diocesan Councils and Advisory Boards

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards. Following our initial Expressions of Interest process last year, we are now seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards as we build on the strong foundation. This next phase is an opportunity to broaden participation and ensure our governance reflects the diversity and rich gifts of our diocesan community.

We invite people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website <https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

In particular, opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance and Banking. We are also seeking new members for our Community and Wellbeing, CCF and Education boards.

Seeking Casual Grounds Persons

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is seeking dependable, proactive, and community-minded individuals to join our school teams as casual Grounds Persons. These essential roles help ensure our school environments are safe, clean, and welcoming for students, staff, and visitors. If you take pride in your work, enjoy being outdoors, and want to contribute meaningfully to a vibrant school community, we would love to hear from you. As a Grounds Person, you will play a key role by maintaining grounds and gardens to a high standard, general building upkeep and minor repairs, cleaning of outdoor areas, and managing the opening and closing of school premises. We are looking for individuals who can work independently, manage maintenance programs effectively, and demonstrate a strong understanding of current Work Health and Safety requirements.

For more information you can use the QR code → or you can email any enquiries to:

aaron.campbell@mn.catholic.edu.au

or telephone him on 0476 209 818.



MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: INTRODUCTION

Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIV

The introduction to Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), establishes the global theological, moral, and social framework for evaluating the digital revolution. The text acts as a modern trumpet call, positioning the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and advanced automation not merely as technical milestones, but as an ultimate test of human conscience and dignity.

1. The Core Theological Dilemma: Babel vs. The City of God

The Holy Father opens by observing that humanity stands at a critical historical crossroads. Armed with unprecedented digital power, the human race faces a definitive spiritual choice in how it builds the future:

The New Tower of Babel: A path driven by technocratic pride, forced social uniformity, and the systematic exclusion of God. This path reduces human value to algorithmic productivity and risks total subordination to machines. (Gen 11:1-9.)

The City of God and Humanity: A path of collaborative development that safeguards individual dignity, encourages fraternity, and ensures tech serves the common good. (Neh 1-2.)

The introduction stresses that while humanity is wounded and flawed, it remains "magnificent" because every individual possesses an infinite, irreplaceable dignity rooted in being made in the image of God.

2. Historical Continuity: The New Rerum Novarum

The Pope deliberately signed the document on May 15, 2026, marking the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's landmark 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. The introduction draws an explicit parallel between two historical disruptions:

The Industrial Age: *Rerum Novarum* defended workers against the unregulated excesses of early industrial capitalism.

The Digital Age: *Magnifica Humanitas* confronts a digital shift where algorithms risk replacing human labour, distorting objective truth, and shrinking personal freedom.

The Holy Father reiterates the core Catholic social principle that capital and technology must always serve human labour, rather than exploiting or discarding the labourer.

3. The Geopolitical and Economic Warning

A key focus of the introduction is the unprecedented nature of modern tech concentration. Unlike past industrial shifts heavily guided by sovereign states, the AI revolution is uniquely dominated by transnational private corporations.

The Holy Father warns against the rise of tech monopolies that bypass democratic accountability and hold immense power over global governance.

He highlights a dark paradox: while AI promises automated luxury, its underlying infrastructure depends on the severe physical exploitation of the vulnerable—including underpaid data labellers and child labourers mining rare-earth elements like cobalt.

4. The Mandate of the Church

The introduction concludes by defining the Church's necessary role in this crisis. The Church cannot remain silent or treat technology as morally neutral. Instead, it must serve as the world's conscience. The Pope calls upon international bodies, governments, and people of goodwill to urgently implement ethical regulations, ensuring that the ultimate metric of technological success is how well it protects the weakest in society.

We stand on the precipice of a new era of technological/industrial revolution, the questions that are raised by the Holy Father challenges us to ask, will we exclude God or rather will we act to ensure that this technology serves the common good of humanity? Who decides what this common good is and who controls access to this technology? What safeguards are to be included in it? Are we as a human family ready for this? largely this is irrelevant, the technology is here and is not going away. It will continue to be imbedded in our lives.