

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

A reading from the first book of Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading

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

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Romans 9:1-5

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

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The Word of the Lord

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Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Approaching the frightened apostles who were struggling in darkness upon the water, Jesus tells them to be courageous. In tempestuous times, Pope Leo also calls us to have courage for 'building a world in which everyone can flourish'. Pursuit of the Common Good is, he intimates, a courageous calling.

We all 'are called to unite listening and courage, prayer and responsibility, so that,' the Pope says, 'the human city may become a more fitting place to live.'

Reminding us that insistent and consistent courage is important when facing massive change as we are now, for instance, the Pope wants to have courage to consider the true ethics of artificial intelligence. Mimicry of human values is not enough. Rather, the whole development and use of AI must serve 'shared standards of social justice'. Each of us should take up the challenge to make this tremendous innovation in human life work for justice.

Sometimes, courage means embracing or driving change. The pope *encourages* us – see the word *courage* in the middle? – to reflect on how truly courageous men and women helped history truly progress. He especially reminds us of people who 'contributed to making history more humane.' That is the kind of courage Jesus surely wants us to exhibit now.

[Quotes from *Magnifica Humanitas*, 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Reney Blyton, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Conchita Ekin, Salvacion Alianza Martinez, Liz and Victor Matt, Jen Phillips, Paul Ruigrok, Vincent Smolenaers, John Tindale, Betty Thompson, Sharon Wood, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Roslyn. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: Sr Coral Hedley RSM, Michele Wilkes (Tues 11/8/26, 11am Singleton), Pamela McDonald (Weds 12/8/26, 11am Branxton), Dulcie Maynard, Brian Brarrett. Anniversaries: Rev Thomas Rogers, Wolfgang Alsleben, Monica Brady, Kathleen Brady, Bob Crouch, Cheryl Klasen. 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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 56:6-7 2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28	
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)			
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 16 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	Tues 11 August J Brackenrig
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Readers	S Purdon C Trunk	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane John Bray	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	J & S Stafa	Cecilia Colleen	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	R James (John Bray)	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 10 August St Lawrence	Tuesday 11 August St Clare	Wednesday 12 August St Jane Frances de Chantal	Thursday 13 August St Pontian & Hippolytus	Friday 14 August St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	Saturday 15 August THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Sunday 16 August TWENTIETH 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 St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton	6.00pm Vigil Mass (Assumption) 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.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 15 August 2026

Historically, holy days of obligation were special occasions on which Catholics were obliged to attend Mass. Catholics were also encouraged to refrain from any work or involvement with commerce on these days. In May 2001, with permission from the Vatican, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference decided that in Australia, the Catholic faithful should observe the following as holy days of obligation - all Sundays of the year, Christmas Day, and The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15).

For Parishioners to observe The Feast of the Assumption, Mass will be said in Singleton on Saturday at 9.20am. Vigil Mass will also be said at St Brigid's Branxton at 6pm on Friday to fulfil your obligation if you are not able on to attend on Saturday.

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 this weekend. 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.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

Tuesday 11 August 2026, 12.00pm Albion Hotel, Singleton

Any seniors in our community who are on their own are invited to join our Senior Singles group for their monthly lunch. All welcome!

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

Wednesday 12 August 2026, 1.30pm 21 Henry Dr, Singleton

The St Patrick's Women's Guild would like to invite you to their monthly meeting to be held in the home of Elaine Thomas. New members are always welcome to join this vibrant group!

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Friday 14 August 2026, 12.00pm Miller Park Hotel, 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, 6-8.00pm Convent Muswellbrook

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/>

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 EOs – 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/>. 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.





ST BRIGID'S
—PARISH—
BRANXTON AND GRETA

A Celebration of Initiation:
CONFIRMATION &
FIRST COMMUNION

*The Parish of St Brigid's Branxton
Congratulates*



Marshall Campbell

James Down

Lincoln Hull

Amari Jean-Baptiste

Noah Lee

Charlie Leedham

Hugh Mathieson

Carter Morgan

Carley O'Donohue

Jaxen O'Donohue

Oliver Thompson

Connor Thomson

Sarah Waters



*God bless you and guide you
on this important occasion
as you continue your faith journey.*

Prayer for Parish Students sitting HSC Trial Exams

Lord God,

We hold in prayer all our Year 12 students taking their HSC Trial exams.

Grant them peace of mind, focus on their studies,
and the clarity to do their best.

Ease their anxieties and remind them
of Your constant love and presence.

Bless their families and teachers
as they support them through this time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.