

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

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

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Dining with around two hundred poor and vulnerable people in the Borgo Laudato Si', a garden inspired by Pope Francis' teaching on care for creation, Pope Leo showed the world's media that the state of the earth and the welfare of vulnerable people are entwined. Care for one goes in hand with care for the other.

Pope Leo opened the event with remarkable unscripted words. 'I have come without a prepared speech,' he said, 'but with hunger. A hunger for justice, a hunger for genuine charity.'

The Pope expressed his 'hunger for a Church that truly knows how to open its doors, to welcome and receive everyone. A Church where there is love for all, where no one is an enemy, and where we all know how to live in reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace.'

'Whenever we come together,' he emphasised, 'whenever we share this spirit of encounter around the same table – the one table where Jesus is also present with us – we are truly building a different world: a world of hope, a world that is light.'

'Let us work together', he concluded, 'and always strive to live this experience of Church, of justice, of peace, and of love.'

[Quotes from Greeting at "Lunch with the Pope", 11 July 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/july/documents/20260711-pranzo-castel-gandolfo.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Reney Blyton, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Conchita Ekin, 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. Baptisms: Phoenix Allard, Wren Marvig and Mack Marvig (Branxton). Called by name to be a child of God. Recently Deceased: Suzanne Bercini (Branxton Fri 21/8/2026, 10.30am), Salvacion Alianza Martinez, Indra Nanda Anniversaries: Rev Harry Fenton, Mary Brodbeck, Mary Ellen Holz, Joan Kealy, Tony Smith, Beven Spinks. 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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20	
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 23 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 18 August C Langford G McMillan
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	F Tomy	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson A Jacob	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		K Ingold	J Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	K Gould M Thomas	Joan Lynn	J Tindale E Thomas	A Jacob B & A Jacob	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 17 August	Tuesday 18 August	Wednesday 19 August St John Eudes	Thursday 20 August St Bernard	Friday 21 August St Pius X	Saturday 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sunday 23 August TWENTY-FIRST 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 Cooinda	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 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.

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.

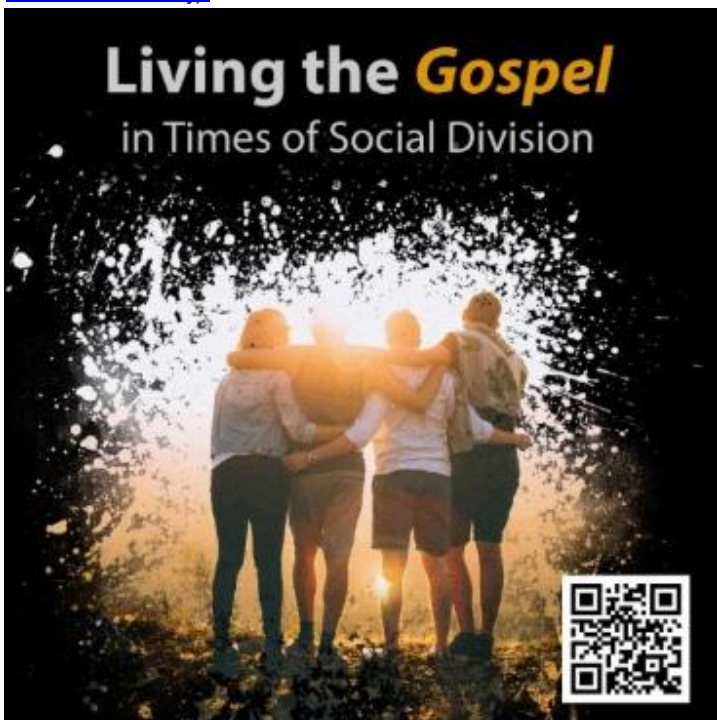
Xin mời quý vị cùng tham dự. Nếu có thể, vui lòng mang theo một món ăn để chia sẻ.

Xin Chúa chúc lành cho quý vị.

Mercia

Living the Gospel in Time of Social Division

Bishop Michael Kennedy reflects on the latest Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement and the Gospel call to be people of encounter and reconciliation. Scan the QR code or visit <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/living-the-gospel-in-times-of-social-division-a-message-from-bishop-michael-kennedy/>



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/>. 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.

St Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission



As the Diocese journeys towards Eucharist28 with Pope Leo XIV we are proud to be hosting the first-class relics of a millennial Saint – Carlo Acutis (September 8-14). During his young life, Carlo created the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition, which will also accompany the tour. See the schedule that covers the Reception of the Relic at our Cathedral, Upper Hunter Encounter, Northern Region Encounter and the Newcastle City Basin Encounter. The pilgrimage has been drawing tens of thousands from across Australia and New Zealand these past months and we are looking forward to host. Learn more at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/st-carlo-acutis-relic-mission/>

World Youth Day 2027

Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced the Diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV will be an enriching experience of pilgrimage for young people which has a profound impact on their relationship with Jesus, their prayer life, their lived mission and their relationships with others. Join us for the Reception of the Relic of WYD Patron Saint Carlo Acutis on September 8 and a WYD Launch Event featuring early information about this exciting opportunity.

Learn More at <https://WYD27Launch.eventbrite.com.au>



Called to Know More – Formation Series



Wednesday 26 August, 12pm, 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 at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>

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. 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 0476 209 818.



MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: CHAPTER ONE

Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIV

Chapter One of Pope Leo XIV's 2026 encyclical, "*Magnifica Humanitas*," titled "**A Dynamic Approach Faithful to the Gospel**," establishes an historical and theological foundation for Catholic Social Teaching in the digital age. It frames Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the modern *res novae* (new thing) requiring ethical discernment, positioning the Church as a companion for humanity rather than an external authority. The text bridges past social doctrine, such as *Rerum Novarum*, with a call to address contemporary challenges of technological power and systemic inequality.



The Historical Parallel to the Industrial Revolution

The "New Things" (*Res Novae*): Pope Leo specifically links his writing to Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. He argues that just as the Church had a duty to defend human dignity and workers during the Industrial Revolution, it now has a duty to address the technological revolution of AI.

A Living Tradition: He states that Catholic Social Doctrine is not static. It is a "dynamic approach" that must constantly interpret new historical shifts in the light of faith and the Gospel.

The Church's Role in the AI Era

Offering Wisdom, Not Code: The Pope explains that the Church does not intend to provide technical or scientific solutions to AI development. Instead, its role is to offer pastoral wisdom and ethical boundaries.

Shared Discernment: He notes that understanding AI requires "shared discernment". The Church must bring the Word of God into active dialogue with the human and computational sciences to understand the spiritual roots of this digital transformation.

Human-Centric Focus: He establishes that the ultimate test of AI—or any technology—is whether it serves the concrete, daily lives of real people, particularly the most vulnerable.



BRINGING OUR HEARTS TOGETHER: *Saturday Novena Intentions*

Life brings seasons of intense gratitude, deep longing, and moments where we simply need the prayerful support of our parish family. To help us lift one another up, a prayer box has been placed near the front of St Patrick's Church, Singleton, under the statue of Mary.

You are warmly invited to write down your personal letters of thanksgiving or specific petitions and drop them into the box at any time during the week. Whether you are giving thanks for an answered prayer, seeking healing, or asking for guidance through a difficult season, your intentions are welcome here. Pens and paper are available for you to use.

We invite you to join us every Saturday morning in St Patrick's at 9am for our Novena, where we will gather these letters and offer them up collectively, bringing the needs and gratitude of our entire community before the Lord. Even if you cannot attend in person, know that your prayers will be remembered and held in sacred trust by your fellow parishioners.

We are also looking for parishioners to help lead the Saturday morning Novena on a rotating roster. Leading is a wonderful, simple way to serve the parish and deepen your own prayer life—full guidance and materials are provided. If you feel called to assist, please speak to Frieda King or contact the parish office.