

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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

30 August 2026

First Reading **Jeremiah 20:7-9**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in
my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord
my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

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

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and
worship him, I beg you, in a way that is
worthy of thinking beings, by offering your
living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly
pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves
on the behaviour of the world around you,
but let your behaviour change, modelled by
your new mind. This is the only way to
discover the will of God and know what is
good, what it is that God wants, what is the
perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his
disciples that he was destined to go
to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the
hands of the elders and chief priests and
scribes, to be put to death and to be raised
up on the third day. Then, taking him aside,
Peter started to remonstrate with him.
'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This
must not happen to you.' But he turned
and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!
You are an obstacle in my path, because
the way you think is not God's way but
man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone
wants to be a follower of mine, let him
renounce himself and take up his cross
and follow me. For anyone who wants to
save his life will lose it; but anyone who
loses his life for my sake will find it. What,
then, will a man gain if he wins the whole
world and ruins his life? Or what has a man
to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the
glory of his Father with his angels, and,
when he does, he will reward each one
according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo regularly demonstrates how it is
possible to call out misbehaviour without
making it about the misbehaving persons.
In a world of big personalities, this Pope
has a knack for keeping his focus on the
issues.

Trying to stop some renegade clergy, for
instance, the Pope wrote to them 'filled
with Christian affection'. He did not look
the other way and pretend there was no
problem. Rather, he faced the issue head
on in a spirit of charity. 'I plead with you',
he told them, 'and ask you with all my
heart: please turn back!'

Urging his readers 'to consider carefully
the spiritual good of the faithful', the Pope
also explained that he was praying for
them 'because to tear the seamless
garment of Christ is a sin of extreme
gravity. 'Such was the spirit in which Jesus
rebuked Peter – a kind sort of blunt.

Through this instance the Pope shows us
the need to confront the tempters of our
own age. Both 'sorrowful yet hopeful', he
prayed that consciences be enlightened
and hearts awakened. Whether as
confronters or confronted, we do not
always like confrontation – but there are
times when it is good for us in the long run.

[Quotes from Letter, 29 June 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/letters/2026/documents/20260629-lettera-fraternita-sanpiox.html>]

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who
is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane
Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian
National University, Flinders University, and the
University of Tasmania, he is the author of several
books on Australian history and numerous essays on
historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he
was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best
article in the Journal of Religious History. He is
currently studying Theology.

**PLEASE TAKE THE
BULLETIN HOME
WITH YOU TO READ**

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.	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, Adrienne, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Roslyn. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20	Anniversaries: Piet Janssen, John McAleer, Drusilla Nowlan, Paul Deaves. 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 <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 6 SEPTEMBER 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 1 Sept J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	N Marzol	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	H Hartcher M Thomas	K Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin Kevin M A Borg	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	N Marzol	M Cuningham	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Joy Darryl	G Cattermole	T & P Abenes	Kevin M Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	A Grant (N Marzol)	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

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
31 August	1 September <i>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</i>	2 September	3 September <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	4 September <i>Spring Ember Day</i>	5 September	6 September <i>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	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 St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> Mass Glendonbrook	<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>9.20am</u> Mass 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

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.

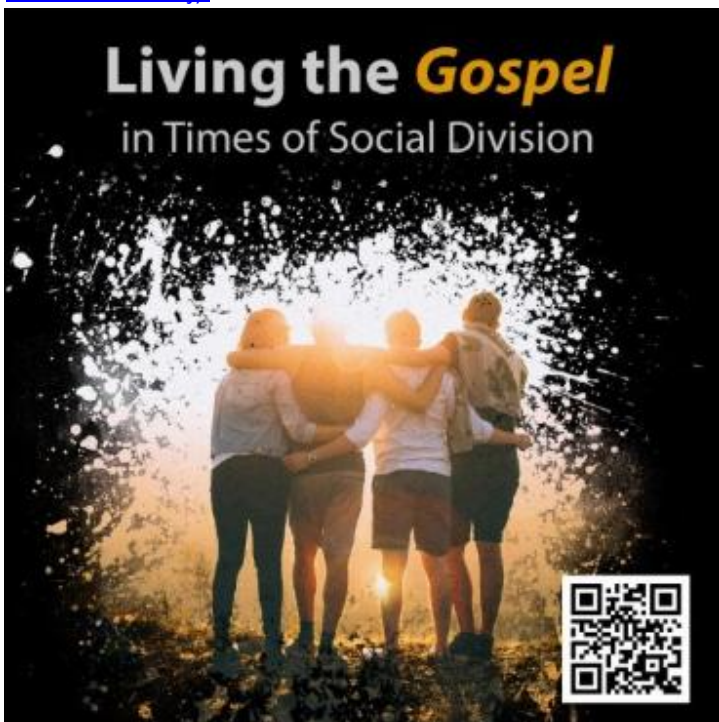
Xin mời quý vị cùng tham dự. Nếu có thể, vui lòng mang theo một món ăn để chia sẻ.

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/>



St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass

Saturday 5 September 2026, 9.20am, St Patrick's Singleton

We will be offering Mass for Kevin Riley as well as all those whose anniversaries occur in September.

At 9am each Saturday, St Patrick's Parish prays the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

Tuesday 8 September at 12pm, Albion Hotel

The Singleton Senior Singles will hold their monthly lunch in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any seniors on their own are welcome to join the group for fellowship and a chat over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

Wednesday 9 September at 1.30pm, 23 Oldknow Cres

The Women's Guild will hold their September monthly meeting in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights. New members most welcome.

St Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission

Wednesday 9 September 2026, Aberdeen



The St Carlo Acutis Exhibition at St Joseph's Catholic College, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen, will be open to the wider community and parishioners from 2:00-6:00pm.

St Thomas Church, Aberdeen Schedule:

10:00am–2:30pm: Church open for school students and parishioners

3:00–4:00pm: Adoration and Confession with Fr Sabu

4:00–5:00pm: Mass, followed by a talk and veneration with Fr Sabu

5:00–6:00pm: Exhibition open to the community, Moylan Hall. There will also be a tea, coffee and cake stall in the foyer of the hall. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

Learn more at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/st-carlo-acutis-relic-mission/>

World Youth Day 2027

Tuesday 8 September 2026, 5.30pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral

Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced the Diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day (WYD) is a unique tool for re-engaging and enlivening a young person's faith, including young married couples. **Talk to your children or grandchildren.** Join us for the Reception of the Relic of WYD Patron Saint Carlo Acutis and a WYD Launch Event following straight after with early information about this exciting opportunity. Learn More at <https://WYD27Launch.eventbrite.com.au>



Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade 2026

Saturday 12 September from 10:30am, Sacred Heart Cathedral

Men from across the Diocese and beyond are invited to gather in faith, fellowship, and prayer for the Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade with two options available. Learn more: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/hunter-mens-rosary-crusade-2026/>

Season of Creation 2026

This year we will be guided by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1–12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life where everything seems barren.

Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish. But it also challenges us: to recognize ecological damage, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to immerse ourselves in the responsibility of caring for and restoring our Common Home.

May this Season of Creation be a path for the healing of the Earth and human well-being to flourish together.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: CHAPTER THREE

Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIV

Chapter 3 of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, titled "Technology and Dominance," provides a critical philosophical and theological assessment of artificial intelligence by contrasting the biblical motifs of the Tower of Babel with the rebuilding of Jerusalem, highlighting the need for ethical, human-centric development. It strongly critiques the "technocratic paradigm," argues against the moral neutrality of technology, and denounces transhumanist ideologies that threaten human dignity. The chapter calls for global ethical frameworks, technical "disarmament," and accountability for the environmental costs of AI, urging a focus on collaborative, human-centered progress. The whole encyclical seems to be summed up well by paragraph 109, it is worth reproducing it in its entirety.

"109. The principles of Social Doctrine offer a framework for understanding this new reality. In a world where data, computational resources and regulatory influence remain in the hands of a few, to speak of the common good means exposing this new form of epistemic, economic and political asymmetry and naming the new monopolies of AI. To speak of the universal destination of goods means finding ways of ensuring universal access to both technologies and the education needed to use them. To speak of subsidiarity calls for protecting the ability of communities to make choices and corrections, rather than confining their role to mere oversight after the standards have been set elsewhere. To speak of solidarity obliges us to recognize the hidden, often exploited workers, who sustain algorithmic systems. To speak of justice requires questioning the global distribution of power that decides who in fact can train these models and who is merely subjected to them. Likewise, it means acknowledging that social justice is not only a goal to be safeguarded after technologies are deployed, but a condition that must shape their very design from the outset."



2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement: *Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division*

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) has released its 2026 Social Justice Statement, addressing the growing polarisation, rising intolerance, and social friction in our nation. Highlighting tragic escalations of religious and racial hatred—including rising antisemitism and Islamophobia—the Bishops remind us that every human person possesses inherent, God-given dignity as an *Imago Dei* (made in the image of God).

Drawing inspiration from Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life for a fellow prisoner in Auschwitz, the statement calls Catholics to counter division with radical, sacrificial love, mercy, and active reconciliation.

Key Call-to-Actions for Parishes:

- **Build a "Culture of Encounter":** Move past political or cultural echo chambers by actively seeking dialogue, listening to others' experiences, and walking alongside those on the margins.
- **Practice Speech Restraint & Online Wisdom:** Exercise charity in daily speech and online interactions. Reject slander, clickbait outrage, and digital isolation, using technology instead to foster real-world connections and truth.
- **Stand with the Vulnerable:** Reject racism in all its forms, support families facing economic hardship, welcome migrants and refugees, and stay committed to First Nations reconciliation.
- **Engage Local Community:** Use inclusive methods like *Conversations in the Spirit* and partner with local faith or civic groups to solve community issues and build peace.

"When we choose forgiveness over enmity, hospitality over isolation and solidarity over vilification, we help to create the conditions in which a more peaceful society can prosper." — Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB

Copies of the full 2026 Social Justice Statement are available online at catholic.au, at the back of the church or scan QR in the bulletin notices.