

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

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

6 September 2026

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 13:8-10

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

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19

**Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world
to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he
has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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



**SEASON OF CREATION
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

This Gospel is clearly about becoming part of team Jesus. There's the bit about gathering in twos and threes to find agreement about what we – including Jesus – want or need. Then we (the Greek 'you' is plural) are told we can jointly bind and loose, literally from the ground up.

This is, therefore, a profoundly synodal passage. It's an instruction manual for dealing with the messy realities in which the Church sometimes finds itself, and a reminder of the importance of community. There is even a plan for dealing with the odd recalcitrant brother who just won't listen! Jesus' key takeaway is about persistence and working together.

In our own times, where there is lots of scope for collective action on important issues, Jesus' frequent mention of 'earth' resonates. We are called to be the salt of the earth, a grounded people whose decisions can have heavenly effects.

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**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.	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, Zoe and Pam. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Anniversaries: Rev John Kelly, John Keenahan, Rex Anderson, Kathy Dunn, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Recently Deceased: Mary Doran, Janis Reid, Archie Vaughan (Fri 18/9 11am Singleton) 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: Sebastian Villanueva, Lola Currie (Singleton) Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES <i>Perpetual Day of Remembrance</i> 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9 Gospel: Luke 1:46-56	
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 13 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 8 Sept J Brackenrig
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	P Conroy S Purdon	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	F King R James	T Janssen H Janssen	
Prayers		M Ingold	C Langford	F King	H Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	Helena Cecilia	M George J Dunn	J & C Cowley	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister			J Dunn	T & 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
7 September	8 September THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 September St Peter Claver	10 September	11 September	12 September The Most Holy Name of Mary	13 September PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
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
	NO MASS		9.20am Anointing 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

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/>

Called to Know More: What is the Mission of the Church Today

Tuesday 22 September from 12pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

What is the mission of the Church in today's world? How are we each called to participate in that mission through our workplaces, schools, parishes and communities? Join us for an engaging panel conversation exploring these questions with Brendon Mannyx, Outreach Partner for the Diocese; Jenifer Fernandes, Catholic Mission Diocesan Director and Adam Frost, Catholic Schools Religious Education Officer. Attendees are welcome to pre-submit questions in advance. Learn More: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>



Vocations Ministry: Turning Dreams into Action

Thursday 24 September from 7.00pm, St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, Charlestown

A meeting to organise a club to promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and the consecrated (religious) life in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Would you like to play a part in actively encouraging and supporting vocations? If so, I invite you to a meeting to consider establishing a Serra Club in our diocese. This local club would be a member of Serra International, a world-wide organisation, affirmed by the Holy See, which is committed to vocations ministry. This initiative has the support of our Bishop, Michael Kennedy. To learn more, please take a flyer at the church entrance. To RSVP and for further information, please contact the Director of Vocations, Fr Anthony Potts, 0466140066, tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au

Mercy & Hope: Talks of Suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy

Friday 23 October & Saturday 24 October, Kurri Kurri Parish Hall

Join us for two powerful days of faith, healing, and hope Presented by Kurri Kurri Church Featuring Paul Elarde & Tinah Deluca-Tohi. This is a free event with catering, cash donations on the day are requested to support our speakers.

Talk 1: Finding Meaning in Suffering: Life Crisis Spirituality

Talk 2: Two Saints of Mercy: Pope St. John Paul II & St. Faustina

Talk 3: Why is this Message of Divine Mercy NEW?

Talk 4: Testimony: "Keeping the Faith through Hard Times" by Tinah Deluca-Tohi

More information contact Yvonne: 0450 323 206

See the flyer at the back of the church.

To register for catering, you can find the event at

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: CHAPTER FOUR

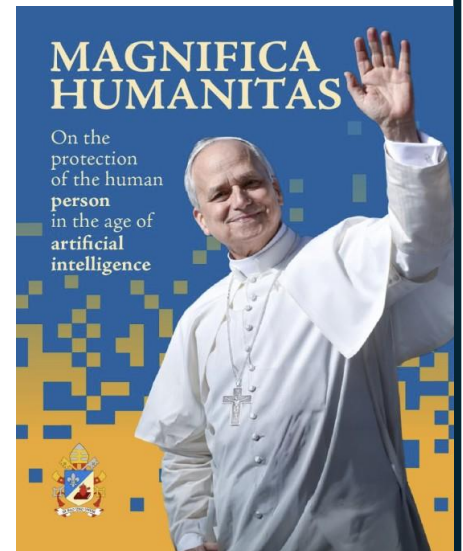
Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIV

Chapter 4 of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, is titled "Safeguarding Humanity at a Time of Transformation." It shifts from foundational principles to the concrete impacts of the digital revolution, focusing closely on how artificial intelligence affects truth, work, and freedom.

Firstly, the chapter addresses truth as a common good. Pope Leo warns that AI-driven algorithms accelerate disinformation and manipulate content, trapping users in biased realities. To combat this, he highlights the critical role of education in developing the patience and critical skills required to seek and love absolute truth.

Secondly, it examines the dignity of human work. While automation promises higher productivity, the Pope cautions that current AI models prioritize efficiency over human value. Workers face automated surveillance, rigid tasks, and a loss of personal agency as they are forced to keep pace with machines. He asserts that systems must prioritize the human person, noting that technological unemployment driven purely by profit margins is a severe social evil. Alarmingly, he points to "new forms of slavery" underlying AI, such as the exploitation of underpaid data labellers and dangerous mineral extraction.

Finally, the chapter covers digital freedom. AI systems exploit private data—tracking preferences, relationships, and movements—to manipulate choices under the guise of convenience. Defending human liberty from digital addiction and data exploitation requires just regulation, shared global responsibility, and robust digital literacy.



Happy Father's Day

Lord God, who is Father of all,
send your blessing down on these men
who are fathers.

For those who in the night worry
for their child, grant them your comfort.

For those who in the day work and
struggle to provide for their child,
send them your strength.

For those who mourn a child,
hold them in your love.

For those who play, laugh, sing and dance
with their child, you share in their joy.

Lord God, who is Father of all,
walk with these fathers,
in the light times and the dark.

Bless them, and may they each be
a living symbol of your fatherly love;
a symbol to their children
and all who they encounter.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

