

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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

13 September 2026

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.' He said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."' "

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. **(R.)**

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? **(R.)**

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell. **(R.)**

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.

My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

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

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:15-26

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine in the world like bright stars;

you are offering it the world of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:46-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour;

because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**ODE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
BY FIONA DUQUE**

Presider: On this day of Perpetual Day of Remembrance, let us stand and together we pray:

**Come,
let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.**

**Come,
let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make good come from evil
and find sweet in the bitter.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.**

**Come,
let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.**

**Come,
let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.**

Composed in the spirit of the Prophet Isaiah by Fiona Duque © 2019, 2025 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. All rights reserved. Used with permission within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.	We remember in our prayers: Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Reney Blyton, Lorraine Cooper, Brady Curtis, 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: Margaret Allen, Des Dagg, Harry Dunn, Pearl Banister, Kate Roberts and Brian Stocks. Recently Deceased: Lance Rapp 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 <i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</i> 1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32	
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 20 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 15 Sept G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		F Tomy	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane J Bray	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		F Tomy	G Cattermole	N Marzol	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	S McAlister S Purdon	Colleen Norma	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	R James J 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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
14 September <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</i>	15 September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	16 September <i>St Cornelius & Cyprian</i>	17 September <i>St Robert Bellarmine</i> <i>St Hildegard of Bingen</i>	18 September	19 September <i>St Januarius</i>	20 September <i>25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	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>11.00am</u> Funeral Mass	<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>4.00pm</u> Mass CONFIRMATION 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.

Office Changes This Week

Fr Thomas will be on leave from Monday 14 September until Saturday 19 September.

The Parish Office will be OPEN Monday 14 September and CLOSED Thursday 17 September.

Singleton Parish – Confirmation and Holy Communion Mass Sunday 20 September at 4pm. St Patrick's Church

Candidates from the Singleton Parish will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion at Mass on Sunday 20 September at 4pm. All parishioners are invited to attend the Mass to support the children.

THERE WILL BE NO 5PM MASS ON THAT DAY.

Anyone who can be available to join the choir for this very special celebration are asked to be at the Church from 2.30pm to practice.

Laughter, Love and Loyalty – 100 years of Mercy Education

Copies of Pam Como's book 'Laughter, Love and Loyalty – One Hundred Years of Mercy Education at St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton 1875-1975' are available to purchase from St Catherine's Catholic College office or you can call the office on 6578 9600.

'The writing of this book was born out of deep appreciation of the Mercy women I have been fortunate to know, the religious within the Order of the Sisters of Mercy and all the wonderful Mercy women they educated at St Catherine's.' Pam Como.

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/>

Caritas Australia – Nepal Floods Appeal

Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to raise funds to support the emergency response to the devastating floods in the Rasuwa District on 26 August. To donate go to <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/nepal-floods/>

Safeguarding Sunday 2026 – Love Protects

Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on September 13. The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

"'Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. "Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence." Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities. Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person.

The Church is showing national leadership in safeguarding through:

- Professional development that strengthens the capacity of Catholic organisations
- Reviews, audits and assessments of Catholic organisations
- Management of the Australian Catholic Ministry Register
- Safeguarding awareness, education and communications initiatives

As faith communities gather to mark Safeguarding Sunday, they are encouraged to reflect on the example of Jesus, who welcomed and protected the vulnerable and marginalised. His ministry inspires the Church's commitment to care, respect, and justice. "Love protects when we listen. Love protects when we act. Love protects when we place the wellbeing of others at the centre of our decisions and our ministry," Bishop Bennet said. "Together, we can build communities where every person is valued, respected and safe."

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/>

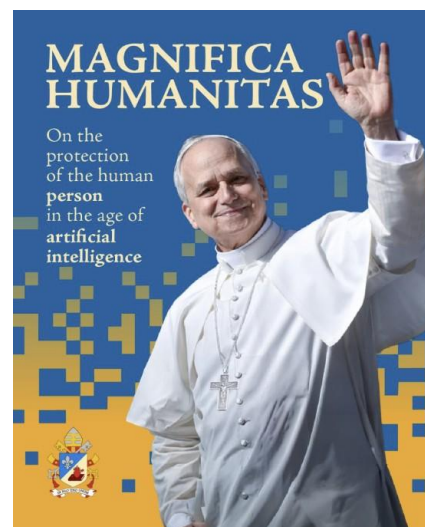
MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: CHAPTER FIVE

Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIV

Chapter 5 of Pope Leo XIV's social encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, titled "The Culture of Power and the Civilization of Love," directly confronts the dangerous intersection of unchecked technological dominance and modern warfare. The Pope warns that when artificial intelligence is detached from moral accountability, it strips away the vital ethical framework needed for life-and-death decisions.

A central focus of the chapter is the alarming normalization of war accelerated by digital advancements. The Pope highlights how cyberwarfare, information manipulation, and autonomous weapon systems make conflicts less subject to human restraint. Reducing lethal targets to algorithmic calculation lowers the threshold for using force and dangerously depersonalizes the enemy. To counteract this, the text establishes a strict chain of responsibility, insisting that humans—from software developers to military authorities—must retain absolute control over lethal decisions.

Furthermore, the chapter diagnoses a severe crisis of multilateralism, criticizing a global arms race driven by financial interests and the technocratic paradigm. As the ultimate alternative to this destructive culture of power, Pope Leo advocates for a "civilization of love". This framework urges nations to transform forced global interdependence into chosen solidarity. Rather than defaulting to polarization, the global community must rebuild trust through dialogue, diplomacy, and a firm commitment to structural justice. Ultimately, Chapter 5 asserts that humanity's grandeur is not proven by technological dominance, but by protecting the weakest and viewing others as allies for the common good.



Pope Leo XIV: Sacred Music Must Inspire Prayer, Unity and Participation

At his General Audience on 19 August 2026, Pope Leo XIV reflected on the importance of sacred music in the Church's liturgy. He described the Church's musical tradition as a "treasure of inestimable value" and encouraged composers and musicians to preserve this rich heritage while also creating new works that speak to contemporary cultures and communities.

Drawing on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council's *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Holy Father stressed that sacred music is not merely decorative but an integral part of worship. Music helps deepen prayer, expresses love of God, and fosters unity among the faithful as they raise their voices together in praise.

Pope Leo also highlighted the special place of Gregorian chant and the pipe organ in the Church's tradition, while acknowledging that other suitable musical forms and instruments may be used when they support the dignity of the liturgy. He encouraged respect for the musical traditions of different cultures, recognising their importance in people's religious lives.

Finally, the Pope called for the active participation of the faithful through acclamations, responses, psalms, hymns, and moments of reverent silence, helping the whole congregation enter more deeply into the sacred mysteries being celebrated

Summary of the article: <https://www.ewtnnews.com/vatican/pope-leo-xiv-the-musical-heritage-of-the-church-must-be-preserved>.

