

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24. 27

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

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**SEASON OF CREATION
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

The complaining workers in today's Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God's great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbours; perhaps because their economies have been industrialised longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them.

But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. 'The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa', declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical Caritas in Veritate, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived?

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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. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.	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, Skye Leonard, 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: Airlie Kennedy, Marie Ernst, Greg Dunn, Henry Holz, Helen Redgrove, George Brodbeck, Clyde Standing, Rufino Sigua Sr, Tracey Dagg, Richard Paget. Recently Deceased: Robert Collins (Friday 25/9, 11am Branxton) 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. Wedding: Mitchell Masonwells and Angelina Vella (Saturday 26/9 Singleton). What God joins together let no man put asunder.
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 27 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 22 Sept J Woolley
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	P Conroy S Purdon	M Ingold	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson A Jacob	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		A Humphreys	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	Joan Jeanette	E Thomas J Tindale	A Jacob, B Jacob 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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
21 September SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	22 September	23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina	24 September	25 September	26 September Sts Cosmas & Damian	27 September 26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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> Mass Cooinda	<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>11.00am</u> Funeral 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

The Parish Office will be OPEN Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and CLOSED Wednesday and Friday.

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 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.

Daylight Savings Starts 4 October 2025

Summer is on the way! And with it comes the commencement of daylight savings at 2am on Sunday 4 October 2025, evening Mass times in Singleton will change to 6pm from Monday 5 October.

Singleton evening service on Sunday 4 October will be said at 5pm.



Morning Tea at Greta

Sunday 27 September St Catherine's Church, Greta

All are invited to stay after Mass next Sunday at St Catherine's Greta for morning tea and fellowship.

Thank You from St Brigid's Caritas

Thank you to the management and staff of The Bakery Branxton, who excelled in their very generous donation of sandwiches and cakes for the anointing mass morning tea and early farewell for Fr Thomas.

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.

Farewell for Fr Thomas Chirackal – Save the Date

Sunday 25 October at 10am. St Patrick's Church

All parishioners from Singleton and Branxton Parishes are invited to join together for Fr Thomas' Farewell. Mass will be said at 10am followed by lunch in St Catherine's Catholic College Hall. Anyone attending is asked to 'bring a dish' to share. You will need to supply your own drinks. Please place your name on the attendance sheets at the back of the churches or contact the Parish office by 18 October for catering.

Singleton and Branxton Catholic Parishes

Fr Thomas Chirackal

FAREWELL

● Mass & Lunch ●

Please come and celebrate with us as we farewell Fr Thomas and express our gratitude for the many ways he has shared Christ's love among us. This will be an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, share memories, and wish him every blessing for the future.

Sunday 25 October 2026 10AM Mass

St Patrick's Church St Catherine's College Hall

112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Sunday, 27 September 2026

The theme for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Even Just One of These Children." To help celebrate this special day, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has developed online resources including liturgies for primary and secondary schools, homily notes, prayers of intercession, stories, and interviews.

Resources available at:

<https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2026>

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



ST PATRICK'S
PARISH
Singleton

A Celebration of Initiation: **CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION**

*The Parish of St Patrick's Singleton
Congratulates*

Clark Agena

James Bailey

Jude Cruickshanks

Charlie Deaves

Arto Dunn

Eli Ernst

Orry Ernst

Olivia Gerard

Lucas Klasen-Farley

Bailey McLachlan

Luca Millgate

Zianna Retanan

Niall Rousell

Amelia Smith

Christina Stevenson

Alice Summersby

Ryder Lynch

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



ST PATRICK'S
PARISH
Singleton

ST BRIGID'S
PARISH
BRANXTON AND GRETA



POSITION VACANT

Parish Secretary

St Patrick's Parish Singleton and St Brigid's Parish Branxton are seeking an organised and professional Parish Secretary to support the smooth operation of their shared Parish Office. Based in Singleton, this varied and rewarding role provides administrative, financial and office support to the Parish Priest and parish community.

The Parish Secretary role provides both clerical and administrative support to the Parish Priest/Administrator, Assistant Priest and is a member of the parish team to ensure the smooth and professional running of the administration of the Parish Office.

Applications close 13 October 2026, 11.59pm

For more details and to apply to go

<https://au.seek.com/job/94658796>

