

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

World Refugees & Migrants Day

27 September 2026

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

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

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a

slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!**

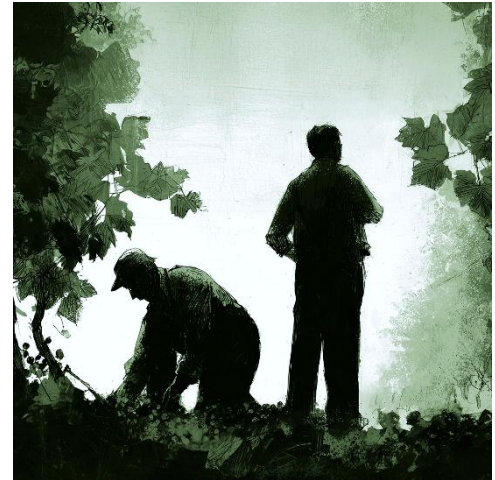
Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

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



**SEASON OF CREATION
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth. Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 'that the ecological crisis is a moral issue' and called on all people to 'recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment'. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that 'technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption'. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity 'to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming' of the world's climate which we are currently facing.

Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low. NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43	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: Reverend Bernard Murphy, Greg Ernst, James Bailey. 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: Matilda and Margot Lambert (Greta). Called by name to be a child of God.
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	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	<i>Rev Peter Street</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: peter.street@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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 			

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 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 29 Sept
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	D Clarke	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Kevin M	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Lynn Joy	G Cattermole	T & P Abenes	Kevin Jonathon	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	A Grant	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
28 September St Wenceslaus St Lawrence Ruiz & companions	29 September STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	30 September St Jerome	1 October St Thérèse of the Child Jesus	2 October Guardian Angels	3 October	4 October 27 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
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 Adoration & Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass First Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<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.

Office Changes This Week

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

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 this Sunday at St Catherine's Greta for morning tea and fellowship.

St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass

Saturday 3 October 2026, 9.20am, St Patrick's Singleton

We will be offering Mass for all those whose anniversaries occur in October.

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.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Friday 9 October 2026, 12.00pm Miller Park Hotel, Branxton

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite all parishioners to join them for lunch and fellowship at the Miller Park Hotel. They look forward to seeing you there.

Month of the Holy Rosary

Saturday 10 October 2026, St Brigid's Church, Branxton

All Parishioners are invited to come and pray the holy rosary from 5.30pm on Saturday 10 October to celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

Tuesday 13 October 2026, 12.00pm Albion Hotel, Singleton

Any seniors in our community who are on their own are invited to join our Senior Singles group for their monthly lunch. All welcome!

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

Wednesday 14 October 2026, 1.30pm 21 Henry Dr, Singleton

The St Patrick's Women's Guild would like to invite you to their monthly meeting to be held in the home of Elaine Thomas. New members are always welcome to join this vibrant group!

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

World Youth Day 2027

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an extended retreat in Japan following. Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an \$800 deposit. Learn more - <https://mn.catholic.org.au/church/world-youth-day-2027/>

Called to Know: How the Church is Organised

Tuesday 20 October – 12pm to 1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

Ever wondered how the Church works behind the scenes? Discover how the Church is organised to fulfil its mission in the world and why the Code of Canon Law matters to every Catholic. Join Fr Matthew Muller, Vicar General and Canon Lawyer, for an introduction to the structures, people and principles that support the Church's mission today. Learn More: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/called-to-know-more-how-is-the-church-organised/>

Kurri Kurri Parish Presents: Mercy & Hope Talks & Testimony

Friday 23 October from 6.15pm | Saturday 24 October from 9am

Join the parish community and hear four inspiring talks on suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy and so much that will nourish and uplift your soul, touch your heart and inspire your faith. Learn more <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

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>



World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees
27-IX-2026

"Even just one of these children"

Even just one of these children.

*"Whoever welcomes one
such child in my name
welcomes me."
(Mt 18:5)*

Sunday,
27 September 2026

www.acmro.catholic.org.au www.facebook.com/ACBCACMRO



AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC MIGRANT
& REFUGEE OFFICE



World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026

In his message for the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Leo XIV focuses on migrant and refugee children under the theme **"Even Just One of These Children" (Mt 18:10)**. He reminds us that millions of children are forced to flee their homes because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters, and other crises. These young people often face separation from family, exploitation, trafficking, and great uncertainty.

Pope Leo calls on all Christians to see the face of Christ in every child and to respond with compassion, solidarity, and practical support. He stresses that this is not simply a matter of numbers or statistics: every child is precious, created in the image of God, and deserving of dignity, protection, and hope.

The Holy Father encourages individuals, families, parishes, and communities to welcome, accompany, and advocate for migrant and refugee children, becoming living signs of the Gospel through acts of hospitality and care.

"Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity." – Pope Leo XIV