

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

4 October 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R.)**

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:6-9

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

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

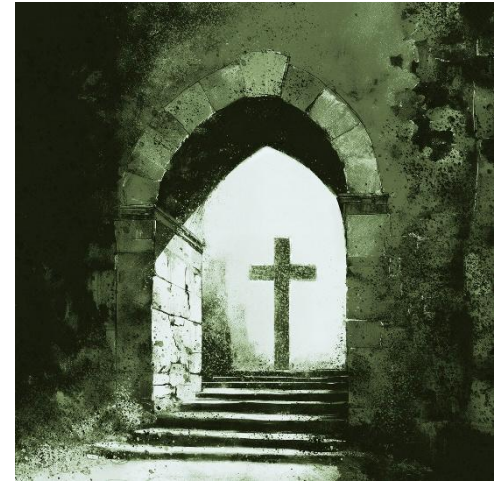
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?'

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord



**SEASON OF CREATION
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

While giving a homily on this Gospel passage in 2015, Pope Francis said that 'what was rejected becomes strength'. It could be a theme for his pontificate. A few weeks later he released his ground-breaking teaching 'Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home', which met with swift and public criticism from certain quarters – including from some high-profile Catholic ones.

How often did vocal critics react to the Pope's actions, teachings and endeavours with a mentality typified by those 'chief priests and elders' to whom Jesus originally directed the parable of murderous tenants?

Pope Francis, as the successor of Saint Peter, and 'Vicar of Christ' – literally meaning 'Christ's deputy' – too often found himself being rejected in decidedly un-Christian ways for conveying his Master's message of mercy and love. Like the beaten, murdered and stoned servants in the vineyard, there were, and still are, frequent moments of resistance to what Pope Francis taught.

Whether it be his call for a humble Church that accompanies the poor, or his hopes for a listening Church that recognises the gifts of all its members, or his advice about a mature understanding of the role and meaning of liturgy, the message of today's Gospel is surely pertinent: we need to ask for the grace to listen to the message before reflexively striking out at the Master's messenger.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.	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, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Roslyn, Zoe and Pam. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Recently Deceased: John Jowett, Leon Tuckerman, Susan Meyn, Adrienne. Anniversaries: Hilton Cox, Patrick Kenna, Monica Kenna, Bill Ryan, Karen Varnum. 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: Hudson Murphy, Ivy Kattau, Willow Craft, Mason Richter, Kamila Richter, Phoebe Richter (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14	
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	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 11 OCTOBER 2026						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	Tues 6 October J Brackenrig
Commentator		F Tomy	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	J Duldulao H Duldulao	F King R James	H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		F Tomy	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	Helena Norma	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
5 October St Faustina Kowalska	6 October St Bruno	7 October Our Lady of the Rosary	8 October	9 October St Denis & Com St John Leonardi St John Henry Newman	10 October	11 October 28 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</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 Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Reconciliation St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton		<u>5.30pm</u> Reconciliation <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 CLOSED Monday and Friday this week.

Daylight Savings Starts 4 October 2025

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

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



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. Please pray the Holy Rosary every day during October.

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!

God's Word Reflections 2027 – Now Available

God's Word Reflection books are now available from the Parish Office. If you would like a copy, please leave an envelope with \$15 in the collection plate with your name and Mass centre/time so it can be delivered for your collection.

Laughter Love and Loyalty – On Sale Now

The book "Laughter Love and Loyalty" celebrating 100 years of Mercy Education at St Catherine's College, Singleton (1875-1975) is now available for purchase at the College or by calling 6578 9600 for details.

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

Catholic Mission Church Appeal – 18 October

In two weeks, we will share the story of Yamikani*, a young boy in rural Malawi whose daily journey to school is filled with hardship. You will also meet Fr Matthew Semba who is leading a project to build a new school close to home, so children like Yamikani can learn safely and begin to imagine a future beyond survival. Through your prayers and support, you are part of this mission, helping to ensure that no child is left behind.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to catholicmission.org.au/united.



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/>

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>



Receiving Holy Communion with Reverence

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the children of our parishes have recently received Holy Communion for the first time, this is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the proper and reverent way to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

Please observe the following guidelines when receiving Holy Communion:

- Holy Communion may be received either in the hand or on the tongue.***
 - If receiving in the hand, place one hand over the other, keeping the upper hand flat. Make your response, "**Amen**," clearly so that the minister can hear it. The minister will then place the Host on your hand. Consume the Host immediately in the presence of the minister.
 - If receiving on the tongue, open your mouth sufficiently and keep your head still. After making your response, "**Amen**," the minister will place the Host on your tongue.
- The Host must be consumed immediately.*** Please do not walk away holding the Host.
- Only those who have received their First Holy Communion may receive Holy Communion during Mass.***
- The Host must never be shared with others, including children.*** If your child has not yet received First Holy Communion, please do not give them any part of the Host.
- Self-intinction is not permitted.*** The Church teaches that the faithful are not to dip the Host into the Precious Blood themselves. When Communion is offered under both kinds, those who have consumed the Host may then receive the Precious Blood from the Chalice.

Holy Communion is a gift that we receive, not something that we take for ourselves. For this reason, the Host is *placed* on the hand or tongue by the minister and is never *taken* from the minister. Likewise, it is why self-intinction is not permitted and why we *fast* for an hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Let us always approach the Blessed Sacrament with faith, reverence, and gratitude for the great gift of *Christ's Real Presence* among us.

