

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

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

11 October 2026

First Reading **Isaiah 25:6-10**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine
wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 22. R. v.6**

**(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Phil 4:12-14. 19-20**
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be
rich too. I have been through my initiation
and now I am ready for anything anywhere:
full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or
plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength.
All the same, it was good of you to share with
me in my hardships. In return my God will
fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as
lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our
Father, for ever and ever. Amen.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Eph 1:17-18**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.**
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 22:1-14**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of
the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a feast for his
son's wedding. He sent his servants to call
those who had been invited, but they would
not come. Next he sent some more servants.
"Tell those who have been invited" he said
"that I have my banquet all prepared, my
oxen and fattened cattle have been
slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the
wedding." But they were not interested: one
went off to his farm, another to his business,
and the rest seized his servants, maltreated
them and killed them. The king was furious.
He dispatched his troops, destroyed those
murderers and burnt their town. Then he said
to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as
those who were invited proved to be
unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town
and invite everyone you can find to the
wedding." So these servants went out onto
the roads and collected together everyone
they could find, bad and good alike; and the
wedding hall was filled with guests. When the
king came in to look at the guests he noticed
one man who was not wearing a wedding
garment, and said to him, "How did you get
in here, my friend, without a wedding
garment?" And the man was silent. Then the
king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot and throw him out into the dark,
where there will be weeping and grinding of
teeth." For many are called, but few are
chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'In order to build a peaceful society,' Pope
Leo says, 'we must not only reform structures
but also renew our hearts.' Each one of us is
called to reflect on the 'ethical and cultural
crisis' that besets our world, and the part
each of us plays in it.

The Pope wants us to see that the path of the
Kingdom of Heaven is one which rejects
much that the worldly hold dear. In our time,
he laments, there has been 'the loss of a
sense of limits, the desire for domination, the
pursuit of immediate profit, and the inability
to recognise the God-given dignity of each
human person.'

As the Pope reflects, Jesus 'invites us to
transform harm into life', seeking to 'reorder
our desires, heal our wounds and help us
grow in virtue.' Good and bad are invited to
the feast, but truly attending means being
transformed.

We are thus invited to enter the feast 'where
hearts are renewed, new possibilities begin
to open.' Each one of us is called to become
an agent of joyful peace, which 'begins in the
heart and flows outward to our relationships,
communities and the broader world.'

'Let us imagine', the Pope encourages us, 'a
world in which the energies currently
invested in war are directed toward integral
human development, to overcoming poverty,
protecting human dignity and reconciling
divided peoples. Such a vision reflects faith
in the coming of God's Kingdom.'

[Quotes from Message for 11th World Day of
Creation, 15 August 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.	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.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.	Recently Deceased: Hank Ruigrok.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21	Anniversaries: Keith Miller. 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.
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 18 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 13 October J Brackenrig
Commentator		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	M Thomas S Purdon	K Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane J Bray	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		A Humphreys	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	A Trunk S McAlister	Joan Lynn	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
12 October	13 October	14 October St Callistus I	15 October St Teresa of Jesus (Avila)	16 October St Hedwig St Margaret Mary Alacoque	17 October St Ignatius of Antioch	18 October 29 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A MISSION SUNDAY
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00m Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
FRS THOMAS & PETER AT CLERGY RETREAT 11-16 OCTOBER						
	NO MASS		NO MASS		5.30pm Reconciliation 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.

Office Changes This Week

Fr Thomas and Fr Peter will be at Clergy Retreat from Sunday afternoon until Friday afternoon. The Parish Office will be CLOSED Thursday this week.

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

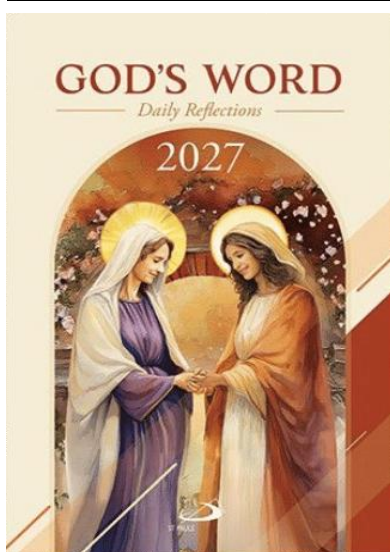
Any seniors in our community who are on their own are invited to join our Senior Singles group for their monthly lunch. All welcome!

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.

The books contain the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to

nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others.

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

Singleton Mass Rosters

It is time to renew our Mass rosters at St Patrick's Church! Blank roster sheets are now on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

We warmly invite both new and existing parishioners to sign up for any of the following ministries:

- **Readers & Commentators**
- **Altar Servers**
- **Presentation of Gifts**
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

If you are currently on a roster and wish to step down or update your details, please adjust your preferences on the blank sheets. All volunteers must ensure they have completed the Volunteer Registration prior to commencing or renewing their ministry. Please go <https://mn.catholic.org.au/about/working-in-the-diocese/volunteer/>

Thank you for your generosity in serving our parish community!

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/>



For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

Join with us in celebration and action next weekend (18 October) by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today

**Name changed for privacy*

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:

1. ***Holy Communion may be received either in the hand or on the tongue.***
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
2. ***The Host must be consumed immediately.*** Please do not walk away holding the Host.
3. ***Only those who have received their First Holy Communion may receive Holy Communion during Mass.***
4. ***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.
5. ***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.

