

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

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

World Mission Day

18 October 2026

First Reading **Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
(R.)

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you

have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Philippians 2:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!**

Gospel **Matthew 22:15-21**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

'Our time is in great need of precisely this', Pope Leo says, 'men and women who have the courage to do good even when it comes at a cost.' As Jesus showed us: sometimes we are forced to make a choice, but we need not respond in the way the world expects.

Our way is a surprising one. 'Draw near to those who are alone, support those who are weary, seek out those who have drifted away', the Pope says. 'Have the courage to forgive, to begin anew and to engage in dialogue. Goodness is not always recognised and often demands sacrifice; yet it is precisely this daily courage of charity that makes our proclamation of the Gospel credible.'

Indeed, as we draw ever closer to Christ, we learn 'the joy of our vocation and learn to love as he loves.' The Pope encourages us to be 'a church that walks together behind the same Lord, listening, welcoming and recognising in the other a brother or sister and a companion along the way, never a rival.'

Unlike those who seek to sow division, we are called 'to discover that following Christ does not diminish freedom, but brings it to fulfilment; that faith does not restrict life, but opens it to a greater horizon.'

[Quotes from Address to Korean Priests and Consecrated Men and Women, 5 October 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/october/documents/20261005-sacerdoti-religiose-corea.html>]

© Nick Brodie

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.	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: Jim Foster Anniversaries: Margaret Dunn, Frank McAleer, Larry King, Errol Redgrove, Willena Graham, Victor Wilcher. 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: Lucy Mackintosh (Branxton). Charlotte Schembri (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES <i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</i> 1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40	
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 25 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 20 October G McMillan C Langford
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	H Rapp	
Readers	C Conroy H Hartcher	F Tomy	S Bates N Alexandroy	L Stevenson A Jacob	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		M Ingold	H Duldulao	Donna	A Skardon	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	Colleen Cecilia	J Tindale E Thomas	A Jacob B Jacob	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
19 October <i>St John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues & com St Paul of the Cross</i>	20 October	21 October	22 October <i>St John Paul II</i>	23 October <i>St John of Capistrano</i>	24 October <i>St Anthony Claret</i>	25 October <i>30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<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> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Cooinda	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> Mass Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>11.30am</u> LUNCH <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.

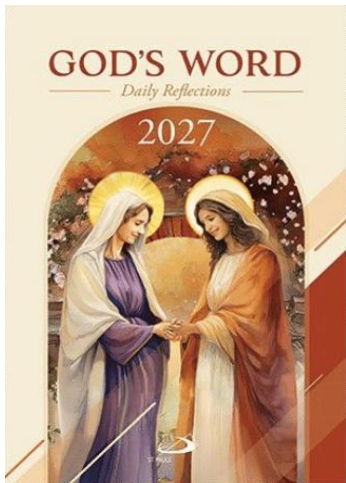
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

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.

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!

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/>

Farewell for Fr Thomas Chirackal – NEXT WEEKEND

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 contact the Parish office to RSVP.

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

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-how-is-the-church-organised/>

Office of Safeguarding Team Move

Please be advised that from Thursday 15 October the Office of Safeguarding is relocating from 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield to 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. People visiting the Office of Safeguarding are asked to please attend Reception at 841 Hunter Street where a member of Safeguarding will meet you. For sensitive matters, a member of Safeguarding will make personal arrangements for the visitor to attend discreetly. If you need support from the Office of Safeguarding at any time, please:

- Phone: 02 4979 1390
- Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au
- Visit their website at <https://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Diocesan Events Page

There are many wonderful, inspiring and engaging things happening across our Parishes and in the Diocese. Keep up to date and share these in your communities using the link and QR Code below in your bulletins.

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>



This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn,

be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

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*

World Mission Sunday Message 2026 "One in Christ, United in Mission"

In his message for the 100th World Mission Day, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that the Church's mission begins with our unity in Christ. As branches connected to the vine, we are called to deepen our relationship with Jesus and foster reconciliation, communion, and mutual trust within our communities.

The Holy Father teaches that unity is not an end in itself. Rather, it is the foundation of our missionary witness so that the world may come to believe in Christ. Every baptised person shares in the Church's mission according to their vocation, and all are invited to work together in a spirit of prayer, cooperation, and service.

Pope Leo emphasises that love is at the heart of mission. The Gospel we proclaim is the Good News of God's faithful love revealed in Jesus Christ. He expresses gratitude for missionaries throughout the world who bring Christ's love to those facing poverty, hardship, and isolation, and he calls the whole Church to support them through prayer, encouragement, and practical generosity.

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, may we renew our commitment to live and share God's love, becoming united in Christ and joyful witnesses of the Gospel in our families, parish, and wider world.

World Mission Sunday Collection: Contributions made on World Mission Sunday help support the Church's missionary work and the needs of mission communities throughout the world. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

Read Pope Leo's full message here

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/mission/documents/20260125-giornata-missionaria.html>

Color in the shapes that contain dots to reveal something that Jesus wants us to show others.

