

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

25 October 2026

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the

work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 23:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Are we content with material goods, immediate satisfactions, the countless little idols that promise us everything but leave our hearts empty?', Pope Leo asks.

Obviously not. 'We all long for happiness, love and fulfilment', he notes. Indeed, he affirms that 'only God can fill the emptiness within us.'

Reflecting on how 'Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads us, as a shepherd leads his sheep', the Pope reminds us that Jesus shows us how to love: 'He carries the weary and wounded sheep on his shoulders, and gently brings back those who have gone astray.'

Jesus' love is gentle and persistent, directed to each person in a unique manner. 'Jesus reveals God's unconditional love for us', the Pope reminds us. 'In his eyes, none of us is merely a number or an entry in a register, but a unique and irreplaceable person.'

Experiencing such divine love, we are called to share it with others. 'Do not keep this faith in Jesus Christ to yourselves', the Pope says. 'Let it overflow, so that those you meet may be refreshed and their thirst satisfied. You are called to bring hope wherever discouragement and spiritual dryness prevail.'

Each of us is called to live 'the holiness of those who worship the true God and generously serve their brothers and sisters in charity.'

[Quotes from Homily, 26 September 2026, Place de la Concorde (Paris): <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260926-francia-messa-parigi.html>]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.	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, Helen Haines MP, 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: Carmel Dagg (Wednesday 28/10 11am Singleton). Anniversaries: Ian Searston. 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.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES ALL SAINTS 1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12	
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 1 NOVEMBER 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 27 October J Woolley
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	M Thomas S Purdon	A Humphreys	J Tindale G Cattermole	T Cochrane J Dyson	A Borg P Goodwin	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	S McAlister A Trunk	Helena Janette	G Cattermole	T & P Abenes	Kevin M Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	A Grant	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

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
26 October	27 October	28 October STS SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES	29 October	30 October	31 October	1 November ALL SAINTS
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass Reconciliation St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton		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

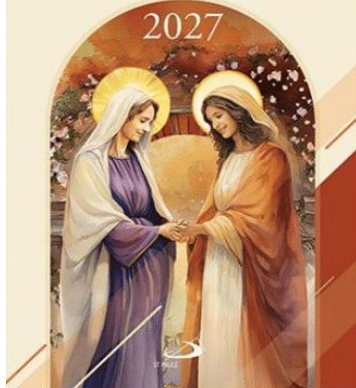
The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

All Souls Day Mass – 2 November

Mass will be said for All Souls Day in Singleton at 8am and in Branxton at 6pm.

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 to you.



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!

Diocesan Events Page

There are many wonderful, inspiring and engaging things happening across our Parishes and in the Diocese. Keep up to date using this link <https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

November – Month of the Holy Souls

During November, we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us—our family, friends, and especially those who have no one to pray for them. Masses throughout the month will be offered for all those named on our special **November Mass Envelopes**. Please write the names of your loved ones clearly on an envelope and place it in either collection basket during Mass. November Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

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/>

Red November Appeal

During the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites everyone in Australia and New Zealand to remember, pray for, and support Christians who suffer persecution for their faith. Aid to the Church in Need's Red November Appeal raises vital funds to support suffering and persecuted Christians around the world. Your help can change the lives of those who need it the most. Please make a generous offering today. <https://aidtochurch.org/rednovemberappeal>

Grand Jubilee Mass – All Saints Blackbutt South

Sunday 01 November, 10am, St Philip's, Kotara

The parish of All Saints Blackbutt South warmly invites all clergy and parishioners to join them for their Grand Jubilee Mass. A community Lunch will follow the Mass and conclude at 1.30 pm. Please use the QR to RSVP your attendance.



Called to Know More – Prison Sunday

Wednesday 04 November, 12pm, Diocesan Resource Centre – Newcastle West



Join us for the next Called to Know More gathering as we welcome Correctional Centre Chaplain, Bernard Leslie, who will share insights into prison ministry, the realities faced by those in custody, and the vital role chaplains play in bringing hope, dignity, and human connection to some of the most marginalised members of our community. Use the QR to Register or visit: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/called-to-know-more-prison-sunday-10years-of-mercy-hope/>

Nourishment Day for Sacristans and Servers

Saturday 14 November, 10am-3pm, Toohey Room

A Day of Prayer, Formation, Fellowship and Renewal. Sacristans and Servers are warmly invited to a special day of spiritual nourishment and community. Activities include Formation Session, Practical Workshop, Fellowship & Sharing, Lunch and Refreshments. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34:8.



Use the QR to learn more or visit:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/nourishment-day-for-sacristans-and-servers-newcastle-west/>



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

Thank you for your generous support of the Church in Malawi and the communities it serves.

Because of your kindness, children like Yamikani* will have greater access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future.

And if you chose to become a Mission Partner with a monthly gift - thank you so much for your ongoing commitment.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission in Malawi and around the world, please visit www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work

Thank you again for your compassion, and please keep this impactful work in your prayers.

Please leave your Mission Appeal envelopes in the collection plate this week so donations can be sent.

**Name changed for privacy*

Thank you!
AND FAREWELL

As we farewell **Fr Thomas Chirackal**, we give thanks for his faithful service to the parish communities of Singleton and Branxton.

A member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle from Kerala, India, Fr Thomas served as a missionary priest in India and Tanzania before arriving in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in March 2015.

He ministered as Assistant Priest at Blackbutt North and later at Wallsend-Shortland before being appointed Parish Priest of Singleton and Branxton in November 2018. He continued to serve our communities as Parish Administrator from November 2024 until now.

When Fr Thomas arrived in Singleton and Branxton in 2018, he reminded us that his first month in Australia had been spent in our parishes. He spoke of God's plan in bringing him back and invited us to "pick up the baton together and continue our journey of faith to fulfil God's mission of evangelisation by sharing the joy of the Gospel." Throughout his years among us, he has faithfully lived those words.

Fr Thomas has been a strong supporter of our parish schools, a valued member of the Council of Priests, and the driving force behind the Hope Tree Group, which has provided practical support to disadvantaged communities in India, Tanzania and beyond. He has also worked tirelessly to secure a strong future for our parishes through careful stewardship, strategic property decisions and investment in projects that will benefit future generations.

Fluent in Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi and Swahili, Fr Thomas has brought a truly global perspective to his ministry. Quiet and humble by nature, he has touched many lives through his kindness, wisdom, leadership and dedication to God's people.

On behalf of the parishioners of Singleton and Branxton, we thank Fr Thomas for his service, friendship and pastoral care. We wish him every blessing for the future and assure him of our prayers as he begins the next chapter of his ministry.

