St Patrick's, Singleton
St Brigid's, Branxton
St Catherine's, Greta
Immaculate Conception, Broke
St Paul's, Glendon Brook

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

All Saints — *1 November 2026*

First Reading **Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14**
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.
After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'
One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. ***(R.)***

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. ***(R.)***

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. ***(R.)***

Second Reading **1 John 3:1-3**
A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 11:28**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



LEO'S LENS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Reflecting on the Solemnity of All Saints, Pope Leo says that 'the mystery of the communion of saints, which we breathe in deeply today, reminds us of the final destiny of humanity.'

And what does that 'final destiny' look like? The Pope speaks of 'a great celebration in which we rejoice together in the love of God, present in all, recognising and admiring the multifaceted beauty of faces, all different and all resembling the face of Christ.'

How wonderful! Unity in diversity. Christ in all and all in Christ. It is a bit of a head scratcher, but a magnificent one.

Besides this call to contemplation, we are also called to act. 'As we anticipate this future reality,' the Pope continues, 'we feel even more strongly and painfully how this contrasts with the tragedies that the human family is suffering because of injustice and war.'

Our present divisions should inspire us to work for peace. 'We urgently feel the duty to be builders of fraternity', the Pope says. 'Let us entrust our prayer and our commitment to the intercession of the Virgin Mary and all the Saints!' This All Saints Day, let us renew our calling to be saintly in our own time as committed builders of fraternity.

[Quotes from Angelus for All Saints, 1 November 2025: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/angelus/2025/documents/20251101-angelus.html]

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

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*: Lidwina Briley.*

Anniversaries*: Frank Tierney, David and Doreen Winsor, Jane Winsor-O'Keefe.* ***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*: Paisley Thomas and Toby Smith (Singleton).* ***Called by name to be a child of God.***

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	*St Patrick's Church*	Queen Street Singleton 2330
Broke	*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*	Wollombi Street, Broke
Glendon Brook	*St. Paul's Catholic Church*	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 8 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 3 Nov* *J Brackenrig*
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	F King R James	N Janssen H Janssen T Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	D & J Clarke	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
2 November ***ALL SOULS DAY***	**3 November** ***St Martin de Porres***	**4 November** ***St Charles Borromeo***	**5 November**	**6 November**	**7 November**	**8 November** ***THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A***
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** **Adoration and Benediction** *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*
	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.

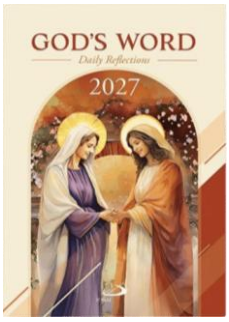
All Souls Day Mass – 2 November

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

Prayers for the Sick List

The Prayers for the Sick list in the bulletin will be cleared from next weekend. If you wish for a name to remain on the list, please contact the Parish Office before Thursday 5 November.

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. These will start on the First Week of Advent (29/11/26). 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!

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Friday 13 November 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.

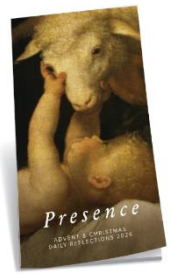
November – Month of the Holy Souls

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.

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

Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026



This Advent and Christmas, discover the God who is closer than we think. ***Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026*** is a beautifully presented, 84-page, full-colour book of daily reflections inviting you to slow down, become attentive, and rediscover the presence of Christ in your everyday life. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2026) and continuing through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2027), ***Presence*** offers a prayerful companion for the entire Advent and Christmas journey and is available for purchase from the parish office for $5. You can leave money in an envelope with your name and Mass attended or visit the office to purchase. There are 50 copies available so don't miss out on this special resource.

Nourishment Day for Sacristans and Servers

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

A Day of Prayer, Formation, Fellowship and Rene wal. 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/



Burton Family, Miller Family, Wilton Family, Clarke Family Janssen Family, Tierney Family, Winter Family, Miller Family Carlos M Gorde, Juanita C Corde, Rafael Corde, Erica Escueta, Aduara Caneor, Agnes Caneor, Alfred & Arlene Thomas, Sr Mary Markham, Warren Markham, Ann & Doug Payne, Pauline & Terry O'Gorman, Philomena & Arthur Matthews, Michael & Kathleen Markham, Diputado, Divinagracia, King Family. Priests and for All Souls in Purgatory

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Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare to conclude my ministry in the Parishes of Singleton and Branxton and return to India on 3rd November, my heart is filled with deep gratitude to God for the privilege of serving you over the past eight years.

It has been a wonderful journey of faith, friendship, prayer and service. Looking back on these years, I thank God for the many blessings we have shared: our celebrations of the Eucharist, the administration of the sacraments, our parish gatherings, and the many occasions when we came together as communities of faith. It has been a great privilege to walk alongside you in your joys and sorrows, celebrate the important moments of your lives, and accompany you through times of difficulty, uncertainty and challenge.

As a priest, my greatest joy has been to celebrate the Eucharist with you, proclaim the Word of God, administer the sacraments, and help you grow closer to Jesus Christ. I have always regarded priestly ministry as a calling to be available to God's people, seeking to serve whenever and wherever I was needed. I have tried to live this commitment to the best of my ability, conscious that pastoral care is not simply a responsibility confined to office hours but a vocation that calls for availability, compassion and service at all times.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout these years. My special thanks go to our parish secretary, Erica Janssen, who has been a constant and invaluable support throughout my time in Singleton. Her dedication, efficiency and commitment to the smooth running of the parish office have been indispensable to our parish life. I sincerely thank her for everything she has done and wish her every blessing as she, too, begins a new chapter in her life in the coming weeks.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Councils, and all those who have generously contributed to the life and mission of our parishes. I wish to acknowledge particularly Gerard McMillan and Ernie Bendeich for their commitment and support of the housing projects in our respective parishes. I hope these projects will be completed in the coming years and contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of our parish communities.

My heartfelt thanks also go to our volunteers, readers, sacristans, sacramental team members, liturgy teams, altar servers, and everyone who has generously offered their time, talents and energy in the service of our parishes. I am equally grateful to those who have worked quietly behind the scenes, often without recognition. Your dedication, generosity and willingness to serve have made a lasting contribution to our parish life.

To every parishioner in Singleton, Branxton, Greta, Glendonbrook and Broke I offer my sincere thanks. Over these eight years, I have witnessed our communities become increasingly multicultural, and this has been a wonderful opportunity for me to learn about different cultures, traditions and cuisines. I have particularly enjoyed participating in the Santo Niño Festival and other community celebrations. These experiences have enriched my ministry and helped me appreciate the beauty of our cultural diversity and the importance of building a community where everyone feels welcomed and valued.

Your kindness, hospitality, encouragement and friendship have made Australia a home away from home for me. I will always treasure the memories of the people I have met, the families I have come to know, and the faith I have witnessed in our communities. I am especially grateful for the way you welcomed me as a missionary priest from India and allowed me to become part of your lives.

The wonderful turnout at the farewell lunch was deeply moving. It was a touching expression of your affection, appreciation and support, and I will carry that memory with me with great gratitude.

As I look back, I am conscious that, despite my sincere efforts, I have my own limitations and weaknesses. There may have been occasions when I could not do all that I wished to do or meet every expectation. If I have unintentionally hurt anyone, disappointed anyone, or fallen short in my ministry, I humbly ask for your understanding and forgiveness. Whatever good has been accomplished during these years has been possible through God's grace and your generous cooperation.

Although I am leaving Australia, the bonds of faith and friendship we have formed will remain in my heart. Distance cannot take away the memories we have shared or the communion we enjoy in Christ. I will continue to remember you in my prayers, and I ask you to remember me in yours as I begin the next chapter of my priestly ministry in India. May the Lord bless you and your families, strengthen you in faith, unite you in love, and guide our parish communities into the future. May we always remain communities centred on Jesus Christ, with the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian lives.

Thank you for the privilege of being your priest for the past eight years. You have been much more than the people I was appointed to serve; you have become part of my life and my journey of faith. You will always have a special place in my heart and in my prayers.

With gratitude, affection and prayers,

Fr Thomas Chirackal MST