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

First Sunday of Advent Year B — *29 November 2026*

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. ***(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.)***

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. ***(R.)***

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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WALKING IN FAITH
PARISH LIFE WITH FR PETER

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

One of the most beautiful things about the Sacred Liturgy is the fact that we encounter the Crucified and Risen Christ the Liturgy of the Word. In our 2 parishes we celebrate this rather well. However, there are a couple of alterations to the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word that I am proposing to bring or celebration more in line what is outlined in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The first such change is that the Psalm will be read from the Ambo. This is the proper place for the proclamation of Sacred Scripture, the Psalms are indeed Scripture, so it should be proclaimed from the Ambo. The other change is that the Prayers of the Faithful, or as they are properly known The Universal Prayers, will also be proclaimed from the Ambo. Both of these changes will bring us into a deeper unity with the rest of the Universal Church. I anticipate that these changes will happen from Gaudete Sunday, the 13th of December 20026. You will note that Christmas Mass times for this year are printed in the bulletin. Advent starts this weekend; may we enter into this period of waiting with hearts open and ready to receive Christ anew this coming Christmas.

With love.

Fr. Peter.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
First Sunday of Advent, Year B
1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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, Geoff Brodbeck, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Pam Leggett, Jen Phillips, Vincent Smolenaers, John Tindale, Betty Thompson, Sharon Wood, Zoe.* ***Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.***

Recently Deceased*: Paul Ruigrok.*

Anniversaries*:. 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.*

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest & Administrator	***Rev Peter Street***	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: peter.street@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	***Mrs Erica Janssen*** ***Mrs Monica Plant***	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 6 DECEMBER 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 1 Dec* *J. Brackenrig*
Commentator		Maddie Ingold	G Cattermole	N. Marzol	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED	
Readers	C. Trunk S. Purdon	F. Tomy	Jenny Tindale Elaine Thomas	T. Cochrane J. Dyson	P. Goodwin A. Borg	
Prayers		Maddie Ingold	Phillip Boyd	N. Marzol	M. Cunningham	
Offertory	A. Trunk S. McAlister	Joy Cecilia	Gisella Cattermole	T. Abenes P. Abenes	Kevin Jonathon	
Extraordinary Minister			J Duldulao	A.Grant	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED	

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**
30 November ***St Andrew***	**1 December**	**2 December**	**3 December** ***St Francis Xavier***	**4 December** ***St John Damascene***	**5 December**	**6 December** ***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B***
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* 11.00am **Mass** *Elizabeth Gates*	9.00am **Novena** 9.20am **Mass** ***Reconciliation*** *St Patrick's Singleton*	7.00am **SCAE** 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.

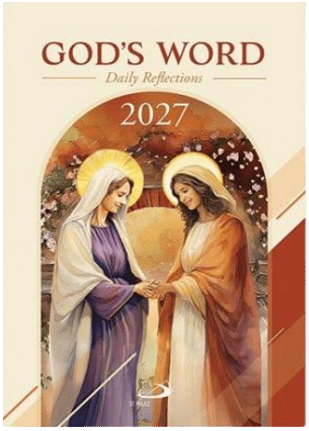
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

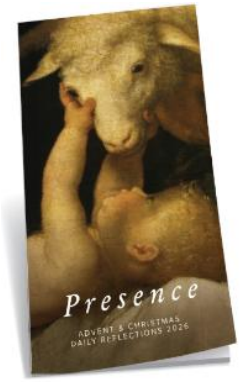
God's Word Reflections 2027 – Now Available



God's Word Reflection books are now available. If you would like a copy, ***envelopes are available at each church for you to leave your $15 payment in the collection plate. Make sure your name and Mass centre/time*** are on it, so your copy 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.

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 ***Envelopes are available at each church for you to leave your $5 payment in the collection plate. Make sure your name and Mass centre/time*** are on it, so your copy can be delivered to you. There are 50 copies available so don't miss out on this special resource.

Singleton Parish Christmas Dinner

Club Singleton Wednesday 9th December 6pm

Come along and celebrate the Christmas season together as a parish family! All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to join us for a festive evening of good food and fellowship. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.

Special Religious Education *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

Volunteers are warmly invited to join our team of facilitators as we prepare to assist students from Year Nine at St Catherine's Catholic College in their training for Special Religious Education. This is a beautiful opportunity for children to engage with the Gospel in a way that's age-appropriate, prayerful, and welcoming, and we are seeking interested volunteers to accompany these students in their ministry.

Enquiries contact the parish office on 5507 4048 or Children's Ministry Partner Mission & Evangelisation: Nicki Graham Nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au 0417 773 444

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

Friday 11 December 2026, 12.00pm Miller Park Hotel, Branxton

St Brigid's Caritas Group invites all parishioners to join them for lunch and fellowship at the Miller Park Hotel. Everyone is warmly welcome, and the group looks forward to sharing this special gathering with you.

Please bring a wrapped Kris Kringle gift to take part in the gift exchange. We look forward to seeing you there!

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/

Accommodation Needed

We are seeking local accommodation for a father and son who have recently moved to Australia and are settling into our community. If you have a room, granny flat, or rental property available - or know someone who might be able to help - please contact Megan Constable at St Catherine's Catholic College on 6578 9600 as soon as possible. Any assistance in helping them feel at home is greatly appreciated.

Give the Gift of Sight

Do you have any spare or unused reading glasses sitting in a drawer at home? Our parishes are collecting pre-loved reading glasses to send to overseas missions, where they will make a life-changing difference for those without access to eye care. Please place your donations in the collection box at the back of the Church. Thank you for helping others see clearly!

2027 Parish Santo Niño Fiesta

Mark your calendars for the 2027 Parish Fiesta celebrating Santo Niño, the Child Jesus, on Sunday, 14 February 2027.

This special event will be a wonderful opportunity for our parish community to come together in faith, fellowship, and joyful celebration. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend. More details will be available soon

St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass

Saturday 5 December 2026, 9.20am, St Patrick's Singleton

We will be offering Mass for *Sr Rae Brooker and Maureen March* all those whose anniversaries occur in December.

At 9am each Saturday, St Patrick's Parish prays the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

Papal Blessings

Papal Blessings are available through the Parish Office for special occasions such as significant birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and other important milestones. Please contact the Parish Office for further information and application details.



Farewell Erica!

After more than twelve wonderful years as Parish Secretary, the time has come for me to say farewell as I step down from my role. Since starting in May 2014, it has been an absolute privilege to serve both the Singleton and Branxton parishes, and I have enjoyed my time here immensely.

I am so grateful to have worked in a role that allowed me to be there for my boys and watch them grow up at their school events over the years. It has also given me the wonderful opportunity to explore and expand my work as a marriage and funeral celebrant, which I have been doing part-time for the past five years. Once Tony, the boys, and I return from an amazing family trip to the UK starting this Monday, I will be stepping into celebrancy full-time!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful parishioners of both communities for your warmth, support, and kindness. Thank you also to the wonderful Parish Priests I got to work with: Fr George Mullappallil, Fr Thomas Chirackal, Fr Anthony Coloma, Fr Solomon Okovido and Fr Peter Street - your guidance and friendship mean a lot to me. Thank you to all the clergy and diocesan staff I have had the pleasure of working alongside, especially the amazing Parish Secretary network - we've been an awesome team. A sincere thank you as well to all the parish committees and our local school staff for your collaboration and camaraderie.



I wish Mon all the very best as she steps into her new role as Parish Secretary. I hope everyone gives her a warm welcome and lends a hand wherever they can—please be gentle with her, as I haven't been able to spend quite as much handover time with her as I would have liked! I know she will be an asset to the Parishes.

Singleton and Branxton Parishes hold a very special place in my heart. I wish you all every blessing for the future and I'm sure I'll see some of you around somewhere as I am not leaving town!

Lots of love and warm regards

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and blessing for the New Year!

Erica Janssen

