

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

19 January 2020

First Reading

Is 49:3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9

**(R.) Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**



Second Reading

1 Cor 1:1-3

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

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 1:14, 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

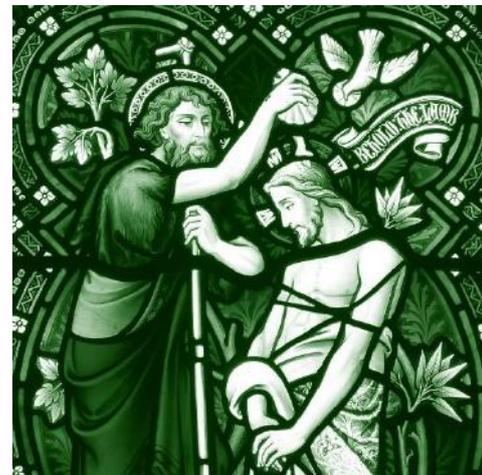
Gospel

Jn 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



EXPLORING THE WORD

This text introduces Jesus in the first public moment of his adult life. It is significant that the public mission of Jesus begins with his baptism. He has made decisions about his future action, which begins with a long and arduous journey spanning the length of Israel from Galilee to the deep south. This is not a random act. Jesus makes that journey with a single purpose: 'to be baptised by John.' In light of Matthew's presentation of Jesus as the fulfillment and perfection of all that is good in Israel, the conversation between these two figures is fascinating. The Baptist recognises Jesus' greater role in God's plan. He has played the part of the Old Testament prophet in preparing the way. Now that the main player has appeared on the stage, is it not fitting that the Baptist bows out of the action? But Jesus is aware of a bigger picture and insists that things remain as they are 'for the time being' so that the demands of righteousness can be satisfied. Both Jesus and John show an openness to accept God's plan, and in reward, God himself enters the story with words of affirmation and love for the Chosen One. Heaven and earth have met in the person of Jesus.

- Jesus' mission grew out of a profound sense of being loved and chosen by God. You too have been chosen. What might your mission be?
- Look at the first reading from Isaiah. What insight does this provide in understanding your mission?

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that
quenches my thirst.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday in Ord Time- Year A

1st Reading: Is 49:3, 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-3

Gospel: Jn 1:29-34



Mass Roster

If you are unable to attend Mass for your rostered time, please arrange your own cover. If you no longer wish to be on the roster, please contact the Parish office on 5507 4048.

Mass Roster Sunday 26 January 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
7am Singleton	C Crow J Walker	G Cattermole	E Thomas J Tindale	J Cox	J Walker H Standing	J Dunn
10am Singleton	J Brackenrig		R James J Bray	M Dagg	M Petrie & Helper	T Cochrane A Cochrane
6pm Singleton		H Rapp	H Rapp C Brackenrig	K Stuart		
6pm Saturday Branxton			S Trunk J Stafa		S McAlister N Bendeich	S Stafa J Partridge E Bendeich
8am Sunday Greta		Morning Tea after Mass	C Campbell T Dagg		J & G Nightingale	L Gorczyca C Miller J Clarke
Counters ST PATS	14 Jan	J Brackenrig	F King	Counting can be done from 9.30am at the Parish Office. If you are unable to attend please find someone to cover your counting.		

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Anne Boyd, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Janice Haines, Pat Holz, Billy Lewis, Charlie Nichols, Anne Standing, Craig Standing, Robert Walker, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Mitchell Day, Margaret Holz, Alfred Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Robert Starr. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptism: Hudson Hall and Maisie Edwards (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Fr Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9653 Mobile: 0470 246 021	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9653	Email: anthony.coloma@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
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	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
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	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025

The Singleton and Branxton Parishes are on Facebook!



You can find us at: **Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton** OR www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish

Schools in our Parish

St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Centre	Contact: Ms Charlotte Nichols	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: cnichols@stnicholasmn.org.au

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20 January	21 January St Agnes	22 January	23 January	24 January St Francis de Sales	25 January THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE	26 January 3 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
<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>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton <u>6.00pm</u> Mass Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>5.30pm</u> Reconciliation <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick and St Paul, and- pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Mass. If you are new to our Parish we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land 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.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 31 January 2020.

New Rosters at St Patrick's Singleton

New versions of the rosters are now on the noticeboard and there are lots of spaces to fill. Please consider placing your name in one of the ministries.

Hope Tree Group Donations

Donations received have covered Project 2 and Project 3. Esta Samweli received \$300 towards her tuition and Rosa Pascali received \$200 towards her business.

Boxes have now been installed in each of our Parish churches to receive donations for our Hope Tree Group Projects.

2020 Sacramental Program



Children of the Branxton-Greta and Singleton Parishes interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2020 are asked to contact the Parish Office on phone 5507 4048 or email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au.

Information meetings will be held in Singleton at St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 5.30pm and in Branxton at St Brigid's Church on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 5.30pm.

Thank You!

To all those who donated towards the Christmas celebration decorations in St Patrick's Church, please accept our sincere thanks. Donations enabled the team to purchase floral displays and other items to make the church look beautiful.

2020 Catechist Mass

Bishop Bill invites you to an annual celebration of the wonderful work of catechists on Saturday 22 February at 2pm, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. Celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy.

Walk the Camino 2020

Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages: Portuguese Camino (May 2020) and Camino Francés (September-October 2020). Small group. Places limited. Phone Sr Veronica Rosier, OP (0451 387 906). www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020

Property for Rent



4/16 Cambridge Street, Singleton St Patrick's Commercial Centre

- Popular position with great street exposure.
- 694sqm on two levels with reception area, meeting/training rooms, open office area plus individual office spaces. Includes air conditioning and 19 off street car spaces.
- Rent \$90,000 PA + Outgoings \$8,600 PA + GST.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Allan Cruickshanks from LJ Hooker Singleton on 0407 724 930.



Our annual Parish Fiesta in honour of Señor Santo Niño (Holy Infant Jesus) is on again!!

Please join us on **Sunday 9th February 2020**
Celebrations will commence with 10:00am Mass
St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

Then join the procession to Singleton Civic
Centre, Queen Street for lunch and
entertainment!

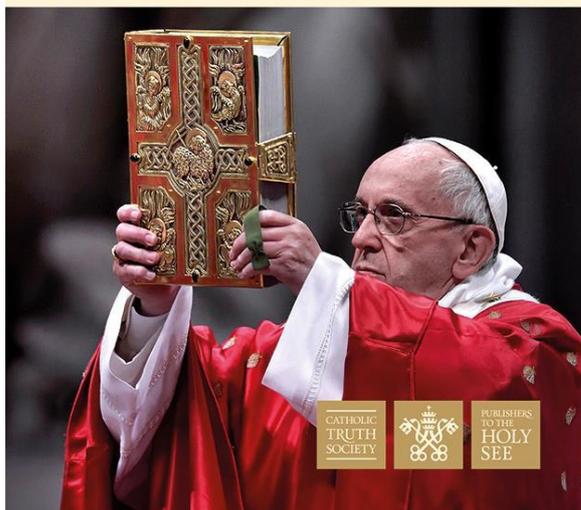
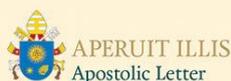
Please RSVP on or before **5th February**
for catering purposes
by placing your name in the sheet provided
at the back of the church



*Take away the sins
of the world!*

Sunday of the Word of God – 26 January 2020

POPE FRANCIS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



On the feast of St Jerome in 2019, Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time be marked and celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. It was in Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit illis*, where he outlined his vision for the said celebration. The Sunday of the Word of God was to be devoted "to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." Francis invited local communities to find ways to "mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity." He suggested that the sacred text be enthroned "in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's Word."

Francis concluded by defining what he describes as "the great challenge before us in life: to listen to Sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy." "God's Word," Francis wrote, "has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity."

In solidarity with the universal Church, the Parishes of Branxton-Greta and Singleton will mark the **26th of January 2020** as the **Sunday of the Word of God**.

Our Parishes will enthrone the Scriptures during Mass and commission our Readers on that day too. We bring our community together to celebrate with the whole Church in placing the Scriptures in the centre of our daily lives. For as St Jerome had aptly written: "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures...

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit's work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit's inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

Commissioning the Readers of our Parishes!

All Readers are to be commissioned on the 26th January 2020 during Mass. In Singleton, Readers are asked to nominate the Mass they will be attending, indicating this on the sheet on the noticeboard. Readers in Branxton and Greta are asked to attend Mass on this day. You will be asked to come forward after the Homily to be commissioned.

Position Vacant – Bishop's Office Support Officer

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has a unique and exciting opportunity for an outstanding, professional administrative Superstar to join the Bishop's Office. This position will provide high quality administrative support, will assist with organising and coordinating events and functions amongst other duties and responsibilities. There is also an opportunity to develop, in time, into the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop/Manager Bishop's Office. This is a permanent full-time position.

If you have a personal vocation to participate in the life of the Church? If you are an experienced and highly professional administrative superstar looking to serve the Bishop and the Church using your unique skills and talents? If you are innovative and adaptable to an ever changing environment and you able to develop strong relationships with stakeholders then we would love to hear from you. For more information about the role, including the position description visit

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions-vacant/> or you can contact the Executive Assistant to Bishop/Manager Bishop's Office, Elizabeth Doyle on 4979 1109.

To Apply

Please go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions-vacant/> and click on the job link, then click on Apply Now. To be considered for the position please provide a copy of your current resume and a cover letter individually addressing each of the essential criteria. *Please note that not adequately addressing the selection criteria will result in your application not being shortlisted.* Applicants may be required to undertake a national police check, hold a current employee Working With Children Check, complete a health assessment declaration, hold a current NSW driver's licence, and must have the ability to work within Australia. Applications close 11.59pm Wednesday, 29 January 2020.