



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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

9 February 2020

First Reading

Is 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R.)**

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R.)**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **(R.)**



Second Reading

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

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



EXPLORING THE WORD

To understand this text, it is important to place it alongside the Beatitudes that immediately precede it (you could read these together first). In that text, the virtues to be cultivated by followers of Jesus are outlined, but the danger with taking the Beatitudes on their own is that faith can become contented peacefulness and somewhat inward-looking. To avoid this risk, Matthew follows the Beatitudes with this text, which teaches disciples about the task of Christians in the world. They have been given the gifts; they are the salt of the earth. But if they just see their blessedness and rest there, they risk becoming 'tasteless' and good only to be 'trampled underfoot'. Instead, the disciples are urged to place their light high on a hill and let it shine for all to see. They are witnesses to God's living presence, not just for the nation of Israel but for all the world. In seeing the way that Christians live and act—their 'good works'—others will be drawn to God through their active witness to faith. Others will come to give praise to God in heaven. This is an amazing responsibility, and Jesus acknowledges that some salt may lose its taste and some lights be hidden. The challenge for Christians, new and old, is not to take the gift of faith for granted and let it become tasteless; not to keep the light confined to private moments but to allow others to see the difference faith makes so that they can know the presence and power of God.

- How is this a challenge to you?
- How can you let your faith shine forth?

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Archdiocese of Melbourne

*Happy Fiesta 2020
Welcome to all the visitors
in St Patrick's Parish.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year A

1st Reading: Sir 15:15-20

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 2:6-10

Gospel: Mt 5:17-37

**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 16 February 2020

Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
7am Singleton	C Crow J Walker	G Cattermole	D Thompson C Spiteri	J Cox		J Dunn M Jones D Nowland
10am Singleton	R Gee R James	N Marzol	M Worden	B Drayton	Sacramental Team	M Stowe M Dagg T Wells
6pm Singleton			L Gresham V Gresham	E Hand	Children's Liturgy	
6pm Saturday Branxton			S Trunk M Young		M Thomas Family	J Partridge G Jacobs S Stafa
8am Sunday Greta			D Clarke L Pozywio		N Ernst M Peters	L Harrison T Dagg L Gorczyca
Counters ST PATS	11 Feb	E Janssen	G Cattermole	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, Bridgid Field, Janice Haines, Pat Holz, Billy Lewis, Charlie Nichols, Clare Quade, Anne Standing, Robert Walker, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Francis Trunk, Jessie Hatcher, Adel Davis, Eric Thrift, Geoff Bendeich. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Anthony Campbell (Funeral Thursday 13 February, 11.30am St Patrick's Church). **May he rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.**

Baptism: Niall Hill (Greta). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Marriages: Barton Johns and Debra Ellis at the Sisters of Mercy Convent Chapel on Saturday 15 February 2020 at 2pm. **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

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
10 February St Scholastica	11 February Our Lady of Lourdes	12 February	13 February	14 February Sts Cyril & Methodius	15 February	16 February 6th 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> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Anointing Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	<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 (Rosary Park Opening School Mass)		<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 21 February 2020. Items for the Bulletins need to be with the office by 12pm on Wednesday.

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.

With an Everlasting Love - Lent Program

The Parishes of Branxton, Greta and Singleton will hold a Lenten Scriptural Program during the Season of Lent. We will gather every Wednesday of Lent from 4.00pm to 5.30pm at the Parish Office in Singleton to break open the Old and the New Testaments. This year's Lenten Bible Study will be facilitated by Fr. Anthony Coloma and will commence on Ash Wednesday (25 February 2020). Everyone is invited. Please register your interest through the Parish Office.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their Monthly Lunch on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at St Augustine's Hall commencing at 1.30pm. All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

Rosary Park Opening School Mass

Rosary Park Catholic Primary School Branxton will be celebrating their Opening School Year Mass on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 9.20am in St Brigid's Church Branxton. Please join the school to celebrate the year of learning ahead.

Back to Singleton 2020

In conjunction with the celebrations in Singleton for the 200th anniversary since the town was discovered, St Patrick's Parish will be celebrating this and the Feast of St Patrick with one parish Mass on Sunday 15 March 2020 at 10am. Mass will be followed by morning tea in St Catherine's Catholic College hall with a display of Parish and College memorabilia. All past and present Parishioners are invited to attend and the Parish would welcome any contributions to the display (photos, booklets, certificates, clothing or written memories). Please contact the Parish Office on 02 5507 4048.

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.

Christian Faith Formation Course

Now is the time to enrol in the CFC 2020 beginning after Easter. The Christian Formation course is a face-to-face learning experience of 12-months duration with eight units each of five weeks - two units in each school term. The course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and spirituality. Courses will be running in Morpeth and Mayfield. More information and enrolment forms are on the noticeboard at each Church.

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election on Sunday 1 March 2020 is an opportunity to welcome all the catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil. [A catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Join the People of God in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to become Catholic at 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West followed by afternoon tea. Please RSVP for catering to sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 4979 1134. Further details are on the Noticeboard at each church.

Cathedral Choir

An invitation is extended to singers of all types to join the Cathedral Choir for when the Church of Maitland-Newcastle gathers for significant liturgical events. Members from the whole diocese who would like to be part of the choir for any or all events should contact Sharon Murphy ASAP either by email sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 4979 1134. Taking names now for the Project Compassion liturgy choir on 25 February 2020. More information on the Noticeboard at each church.

Annual Catechists Mass

Bishop Bill invites you to our annual celebration of the wonderful work our catechists achieve on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 2pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West (*Please note change of date*). This event is a great opportunity for priests, parishioners, families and friends to celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy. Awards will be presented to those who have served as Catechists for over 10 years and to those who have completed SRE training. Followed by refreshments in the Toohey room.



Let your light shine

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AT A CROSSROADS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AS CENTRES OF 'THE NEW EVANGELISATION'

In his Encyclical on the Church's Mission John Paul II said: "I sense that the moment has come to commit all the Church's energies to a new evangelisation." (*Redemptoris Missio*, 1990) This call was the antiphon of his pontificate as he called the Church to preach the Gospel anew in previously Christian communities which were falling away from the Gospel in the face of secularisation and other cultural change. In his Apostolic Exhortation on Catechesis the Pope explained that the definitive aim of evangelisation "is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity." (*Catechesi Tradendæ*, 1979) In this John Paul II echoed his predecessors such as Paul VI, whose own Encyclical on Evangelisation in the Modern World, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (1975), remains a classic on this topic. This emphasis on evangelisation and catechesis has been reiterated by Pope Benedict XVI and by Church leaders around the world.

Evangelisation means proclaiming the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Its goal is bringing people to faith through a personal encounter with Him. It is to be distinguished from catechesis, which involves deepening and instructing that faith already received. In his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Jesus Christ and the Peoples of Oceania, John Paul II noted that:

Living the life of Jesus Christ implies...a living spirituality and authentic morality, strengthened by the word of God in Scripture and celebrated in the Sacraments of the Church. When Christians live the life of Christ with deeper faith, their hope grows stronger and their charity more radiant. That was the goal of the Synod, and it is the goal of the new evangelisation to which the Spirit is summoning the whole Church...The present generation of Christians is called and sent now to accomplish a new evangelisation among the peoples of Oceania, a fresh proclamation of the enduring truth evoked by the symbol of the Southern Cross. This call to mission poses great challenges, but it also opens new horizons, full of hope and even a sense of adventure. (Ecclesia in Oceania 2001, 8 and 13)

The 'sense of adventure' inspired by the new evangelisation is all the more urgent in the context of growing numbers of non-practising Catholics, under-catechised Catholics and other-than-Catholic students in our schools. All Christians receive the gift of faith at Baptism, and many others carry "the seeds of faith" within their hearts. But many of them need the Gospel to be proclaimed to them anew. This is not a matter of proselytising or "forcing beliefs down students' throats" – quite the contrary. Genuine faith cannot be imposed: it is freely received or rejected. If we are "up front" about our educational and catechetical goals with any prospective student, teacher or parent, while encouraging students to engage with open hearts and reasoning minds, then we are fully justified in engaging in activities of witness, formation and service.

If Catholic schools are to be centres of the new evangelisation:

- + the life and activity in the school would be the context for a personal encounter with Christ and would promote, and never contradict, the teachings of the Church
- + all those involved in our schools would appreciate their roles in receiving and proclaiming the Good News by word and deed, and by the example of their lives
- + students would participate in RE classes, liturgies, retreats and prayers which are, as far as possible, tailored to their place in the journey of faith, addressing the core of our faith and inviting a response
- + special programs would be developed for students who first enter a Catholic school later than Kindergarten (for instance in Year 7) and may not have received much prior religious education
- + schools would work with their local parish(es) to establish programs for initiating children and young adults into the Church
- + other efforts would be pursued to integrate the activity of our primary and secondary schools with the life of the surrounding parish(es) and diocese, so that our young people are given a sense of belonging to a wider Church beyond their family and school
- + consideration would be given to the desirability of establishing Catholic pre-schools, with catechesis appropriate to this crucial stage in faith formation
- + every effort would be made to engage our students and young teachers in preparations for, participation in and enrichment after major religious events such as World Youth Day
- + families and parishes would back up and support their schools in all these activities.

Taken from cnsnw.catholic.edu.au "Catholic Schools at a Crossroads – Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of NSW and the ACT"

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