



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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

16 February 2020

First Reading

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the of Ecclesiasticus.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R.)**

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R.)**

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord

of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37 (short form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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



EXPLORING THE WORD

The central theme of this week's reading from Matthew is built upon for the next several weeks. In this text, Matthew is reassuring his Jewish audience that Jesus has not come to replace the Law of Judaism but to bring it to fullness and completion. In this gospel, Jesus reassures his hearers that 'not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law.' Instead, Jesus extends the Law of Israel and interprets it in a new way. His emphasis is on the spirit of the Law, not the letter of the Law. Doing only what the Law requires as a minimum is, for Jesus, not enough. Disciples are called to discern what is at the heart of faith and to bring this to all our dealings with people. The observance of outward expressions of faith is hollow unless it is accompanied by an attitude that shapes our whole being and informs all our actions, responses and decisions.

- Discuss why laws are necessary for the best ordering of societies.
- Think of some examples of actions that may be 'legal' but are not necessarily 'moral'.
- Contrast and discuss the 'spirit of the law' and the 'letter of the law'.
- Explore how Christianity is an attitude that shapes the whole being and life of a believer.
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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year A

1st Reading: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 3:16-23

Gospel: Mt 5:38-48



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 23 February 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	L & P Boyce		R James J Bray	M Dagg	M Petrie & Helper	T Cochrane A Cochrane
6pm Singleton	J Brackenrig	H Rapp	H Rapp C Brackenrig	O Brackenrig	CLoW	
6pm Saturday Branxton			J Stafa M Porter		S Farnham J Taylor	E Bendeich S Trunk C Trunk
8am Sunday Greta			C Campbell L Gorczyca		J & G Nightingale	J Clarke C Miller D Clarke
Counters ST PATS	18 Feb	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, 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: Cecil Thomas, Mary Hamilton. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Sage Lewis (Branxton). **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
17 February Seven Founders of Servites	18 February	19 February	20 February	21 February St Peter Damian	22 February	23 February 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	NO 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 NO MASS 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 (Year 5/6)		<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 interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2020 are asked to attend the **Information meeting** to be held 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.

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.

Prayer Chain

Just a thought for you to consider. When someone, a friend, family or friend of a friend tells you of their worries do you suggest that you will pray for them? Perhaps you have been in this situation yourself and have found comfort in those words. I wonder if you would think of asking the PRAYER CHAIN to join with you in prayer. We are here, just a phone call away. Barb, 65 741274 or Rita 0418 631 915 will take your call and pass it on to 20 others. No names are required so that confidentiality is maintained. Think about it please and God Bless. Barb Drayton.

Thanks from the Standing Family

Coleen and Ray Standing and family would sincerely like to thank the many parishioners for their prayers throughout our son, Craig's, long illness. Just as importantly for your words of sympathy at our recent loss. Craig is now at peace and suffers no more. God Bless you all.

Parking at St Catherine's Church, Greta



Please be mindful and respectful of our neighbours when parking your car at St Catherine's Church in Greta. There have been some instances where cars have been parked on neighbouring property boundaries destroying plants. Please keep an eye out for any visitors who may have parked incorrectly and ask them politely to move their car.

St Brigid's Branxton Caritas 2020 Events

St Brigid's Branxton Caritas Group will be hosting the following events this year. Please phone Mercia Thomas for bookings on 4938 1362. Please see the noticeboard for more details.

Friday 24 April 2020: Upper Hunter Tour of Darley stud, Martindale Homestead, lunch at Denman, wine tasting at Two Rivers Wines and more. Cost is \$100 per person includes lunch. Names confirmed by 8 March 2020.

Thursday 23 July 2020: Christmas in July with Nathan Foley at Ettalong Diggers. Cost is \$75 per person. Names and payment by 30 June 2020.

Friday 21 August 2020: the very popular Annual Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place. Cost is \$45 per person.

Diocesan Project Compassion Launch

The diocesan community is warmly invited to this time of prayer which begins our Lenten Season. The launch will be on Wednesday 25 February 2020 from 10.30am to 12.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral followed by pancakes in the Victor Peters Suite. RSVP by 20 February to jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au or Ph 4979 1334, please include any dietary requirements. All welcome to attend.

Ukrainian Mass at Greta

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the first Ukrainian Mass said in Greta, Mass will be said on Thursday 26 March 2020 at 10am in St Catherine's Church. All welcome to attend.

World Day of Prayer 2020

The World Day of Prayer 2020 host country is Zimbabwe. The WDP 2020 program is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given. Our sisters from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter to be a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation. World Day of Prayer will be held on 6 March 2020 in Branxton at St John's Anglican Church, Cessnock Road at 10am and in Singleton in All Saints Anglican Church, High St at 7pm.

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.

Annual Catechists Mass

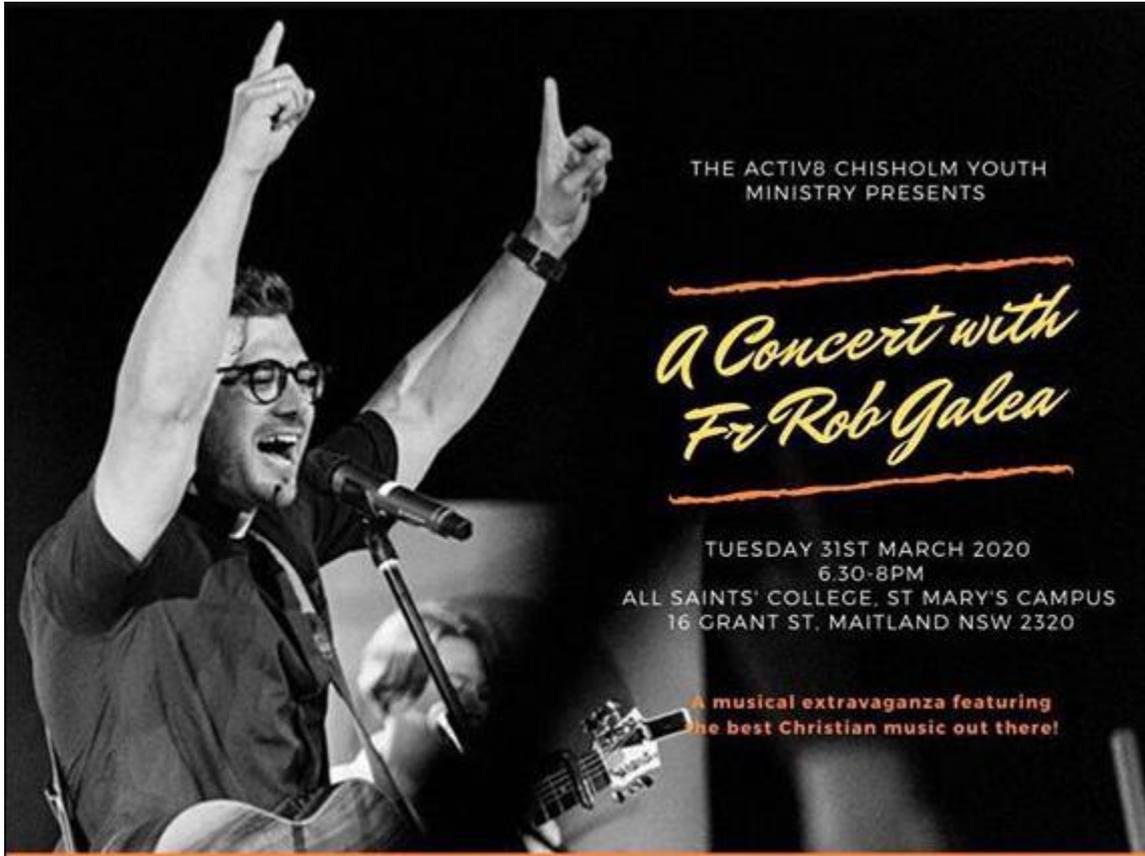
Bishop Bill invites you to our annual celebration of the wonderful work our catechists achieve on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 2pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West (Please note change of date). This event is a great opportunity for priests, parishioners, families and friends to celebrate the ministry 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.



Reach Beyond: Become Simply Rich....

All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. [Palms Australia](http://www.palms.org.au) will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine.

Look at www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email palms@palms.org.au



THE ACTIV8 CHISHOLM YOUTH
MINISTRY PRESENTS

*A Concert with
Fr Rob Galea*

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2020
6.30-8PM
ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE, ST MARY'S CAMPUS
16 GRANT ST, MAITLAND NSW 2320

A musical extravaganza featuring
the best Christian music out there!

HURRY! BUY A TICKET NOW AT EVENTBRITE.COM.AU
Type in "ACTiv8 Youth - Concert with Fr Rob Galea"

Thank you

The members of the Singleton Filipino Community would like to offer their heartfelt thanks for the Parish's outstanding support of the 25th annual fiesta in honour of the Holy Infant Jesus (Senor Santo Nino), held last Sunday 9 February 2020. The heavy rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who attended, as guests (many of whom had travelled from far and wide) were treated to wonderful dancing, singing, games and of course the usual delicious Filipino fare. Thank you to Fathers Thomas and Anthony for their ongoing support, as well as all others who made the day a success by sharing their time, talents, generous donations and presence. May Senor Santo Nino continue to bless and guide our Parish and may we all continue to honour Him with the way we live our lives.

