

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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

PROJECT COMPASSION

23 February 2020

First Reading **Lv 19:1-2. 17-18**
A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.
(R.)

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.
(R.)

Second Reading **1 Cor 3:16-23**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be

wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **1 Jn2:5**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 5:38-48**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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



EXPLORING THE WORD

This gospel continues the theme of going beyond what is required by law, but here Jesus takes the teaching much further. More than honouring the spirit of the law over the letter of the law, Jesus advocates what must have sounded like the ravings of a mad man to his hearers: don't just allow a person to strike you once; offer him the other cheek as well. If asked, don't just give away your tunic; give your cloak as well! Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. What was Jesus thinking?

It is the final verse of this text that gives us the clue to the meaning of this demanding passage. In essence, what Jesus is saying is that believers must emulate God's own actions. God is a God of total self-giving. God is a God of unbounded generosity, even to those who may not seem to deserve such magnanimity. God is a God whose love and self-giving embrace all, both the honest and the dishonest. The offer of the kingdom of heaven is open to all who seek to be God-like in their dealings with others.

- You could discuss examples from Scripture of the unbound generosity of God.
- How have you experienced this in your own life?
- You could discuss the total self-giving of Jesus at his death and all that it achieved for humanity.
- What does that mean for you in your life at this point in your journey?

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

1st Sunday of Lent- Year A
1st Reading: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7
2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-19
Gospel: Mt 4:1-11



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 1 March 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
7am Singleton	C Crow J Walker	G Cattermole	E Thomas J Tindale	M Spinks	G Cattermole	G McMillan M Walker M Alseben
10am Singleton	D Jarrett S Wheeler	R Gee	R Price	T Wells	Baptism Family	T Cochrane A Cochrane
6pm Singleton			A Borg J Borg C Davey	K Davey	CLoW	
6pm Saturday Branxton			C Trunk C Szumilus		S McAlister N Bendeich	G Jacobs S Stafa J Partridge
8am Sunday Greta			T Dagg C Campbell		J & G Wilton	L Harrison L Pozywio J Clarke
Counters ST PATS	25 Feb	F King	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 and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Edna Tierney, Daisy Tierney and Edna Wilton. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Audrey Clinch (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
24 February	25 February	26 February ASH WEDNESDAY	27 February	28 February	29 February	1 March 1 st Sunday of Lent
<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 (Year 11 & 12)	<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>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<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.

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 contact the Parish Office by Wednesday 26 February. Phone 5507 4048.

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.

Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

All are welcome to attend the 1st Anniversary Mass to be said on Saturday 1 March 2020 at 9.20am at St Patrick's Church, Singleton. Our prayers will be for the souls of

- † Ken Standing
- † Robert Winter
- † Ian Ryan
- † Frank Ingold
- † Sr Dorothy Kelly
- † Dianne Saunders

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 will take your call and pass it on to 20 others or speak to Rita. No names are required so that confidentiality is maintained. Think about it please and God Bless. Barb Drayton.

Morning Tea at St Catherine's Greta

For all those attending Mass this Sunday morning at St Catherine's Greta please join us for morning tea and a chat before continuing your day.

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.

World Day of Prayer 2020



World Day of Prayer AUSTRALIA

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 (please bring a plate to share) and in Singleton at All Saints Anglican Church, High St at 7pm.

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.

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.

Position Vacant for YCS Leader

Pastoral Ministries is seeking an energetic person with an active faith life, who feels called to work with young people to explore and deepen their awareness of themselves as missionary disciples. We are looking for someone who is deeply interested in Catholic social teaching and promoting justice and action through the Young Christian Student (YCS) movement. The YCS movement employs key leadership strategies and training modules, which the ideal candidate will feel confident to coordinate and run with passion and creativity. Experience in youth ministry or teaching is highly desirable. Applications close 21 February. www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions-vacant/young-christian-student-worker/

Singleton Parish Property Update

Parishioners in Singleton Parish are asked to read the handout they receive with their bulletin this weekend regarding the options for the development of the property which was previously the Catholic Junior School. A copy of this information will be posted at the back of the Church and on the Parish website and Facebook Page.

Any comments or feedback is to be placed in writing and sent to the Parish Office via email or mail.

You can also speak with Fr Thomas, Niamh Marzol or John Flannery regarding the update.



BACK TO SINGLETON 2020

In conjunction with the celebrations in Singleton for the 200th anniversary since the area 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.

If you are able to assist on the day at Mass or at the morning tea with cooking or serving, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Niamh Marzol.



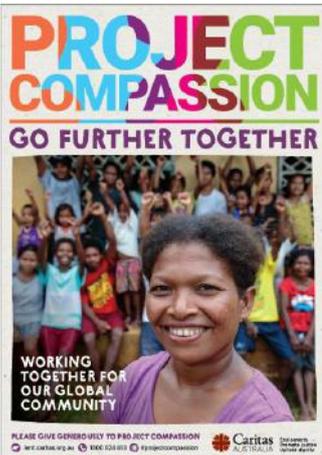
Project Compassion Sunday
23rd February 2020



Please take home a Project Compassion box and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed **"Go Further Together"**.

As Teresa of Calcutta said,

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love."



You will be helping empower our world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

When we **Go Further Together** in love and compassion, the whole world thrives.

You can donate through Parish boxes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



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 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