



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

First Sunday of Lent – Year A

1 March 2020

First Reading

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 5:12, 17-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. (shortened form)

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

**No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

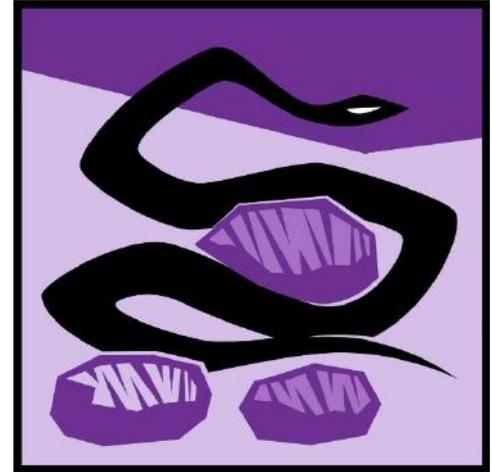
Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him. The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



EXPLORING THE WORD

This text follows immediately from the baptism of Jesus. The final words of that text come from the voice from heaven: 'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.' It is interesting that Satan uses the words 'If you are the Son of God...' to introduce two of his temptations. In this way, Satan is disputing the claim from heaven and trying to force Jesus to prove his sonship. In response to the first temptation, Jesus affirms his trust in God. Satan seizes on this as the basis for his second temptation, but again Jesus rejects any attempt to force God's hand. The final temptation reveals the true nature of the contest: it is a struggle between God and Satan, but Jesus shows his choice is made and rejects Satan.

- Do you reject Satan and all his works? This will be a question asked at baptism. In what ways are we called to reject self-interest, power and physical comfort as followers of Jesus?
- What are some of the choices between 'good and evil' that we face in our own everyday existence?
- There is much evil in our world today. Draw parallels with this text. Discuss ways in which Christians are called to respond to particular modern phenomena like consumerism or individualism. In what way is this a personal testing for us?

© 2019 Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
Archdiocese of Melbourne

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

2nd Sunday of Lent- Year A

1st Reading: Gen 12:1-4

2nd Reading: 2 Tm 1:8-10

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9



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 8 March 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
7am Singleton	C Crow J Walker	G Cattermole	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Spinks	C O'Connor J Cox	D Nowland M Alsleben
10am Singleton	J Dries	J Patton	N Adler P Heher	F King	M Pease Baptism Family	M Stowe A Grant A Gibbon
6pm Singleton	Janssen Family		H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen	E Janssen	CLoW	
6pm Saturday Branxton			S Hartcher M Thomas		K Jones K Jones	E Bendeich S Trunk G Jacobs
8am Sunday Greta			D Clarke M Ingold		E Winter	T Dagg C Campbell C Miller
Counters ST PATS	3 March	R James	M Worden	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, Peter Ernst, 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: Neta Ernst, Mary Mackenzie and Patricia Lynch. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Anne Archinal and Maisie Winbourne. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptism: Albert Davis (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

RCIA Candidate: Tyler Evans (Singleton). **Called to be a light in the World.**

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 2 March	Tuesday 3 March	Wednesday 4 March	Thursday 5 March	Friday 6 March	Saturday 7 March EMBER DAY	Sunday 8 March 2 nd 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 3 & 8)	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Adoration and Benediction 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 Broke	<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 2)		<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.

Change of Mass times in Branxton

In previous years, evening Mass times in the Branxton Parish have been changed from 6pm to 5pm when daylight savings finishes. As requests have been received that Mass times stay the same this year, a survey will be taken by the Parish Priest of those at Mass next Saturday evening (7 March) to make a decision on whether to change or not. If you will not be at Mass, please email the Parish office with your preferred option.

Stations of the Cross

As part of our Lenten preparations you are invited to join us for the Stations of the Cross weekly devotion at St Patrick's Church Singleton after 9.20am Mass on Wednesdays and at St Brigid's Church Branxton after 9.20am Mass on Thursdays.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the World.

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.

Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

All are welcome to attend the 1st Anniversary Mass to be said on Saturday 7 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

Singleton Senior Singles Lunch

The Singleton Senior Singles group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. New members always welcome for a chat over a meal.

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.

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.

St Patrick's Parish Debutante Ball 2020

The St Patrick's Parish Debutante Ball Committee are pleased to announce that the 2020 Ball will be held on Friday 11 September 2020 at Singleton Civic Centre. Girls in the Year 11 age group are invited to make their debut at this ball. Any interested girls can register by making contact with the ball committee via their facebook page **St Patrick's Parish Debutante Ball Singleton** or email stpatricksparish.debball@outlook.com and are encouraged to attend their information evening on Monday 16 March 2020 at 6.45pm in the St Catherine's College Senior Library.

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.

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.

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/



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2020

*"We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

1. The paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This kerygma sums up the mystery of a love "so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue" (Christus Vivit, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit: "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 7 October 2019
Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

To be continued during the weeks of Lent...

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

**First Sunday of Lent
1st March 2020**



Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

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, mail or by placing in the feedback box at the back of the Church.

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 Singleton 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** (no 7am or 6pm Mass on this day)*. 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 warmly 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.