



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

Second Sunday of Lent – Year A

8 March 2020

First Reading

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'
So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Tm 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 15:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud
the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel

Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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



EXPLORING THE WORD

In the later part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that he must journey to Jerusalem to suffer and die and to rise again. He begins his journey towards his fate, but that journey is interrupted by this wondrous moment where he is revealed as the glorious Messiah, the beloved Son of God. In the language of this text, there are echoes of the Jewish expectation of the Messiah coming in glory at the end of time. Through the appearance of Moses and Elijah in this scene, Matthew links Jesus intimately with Jewish expectation. The law, represented by Moses, established a covenant with the chosen people, and it was the role of the prophets, represented by Elijah, to constantly remind the people of their covenant obligations. Both the law and the prophets looked forward to God's final intervention in human history, and here, Jesus is presented as that intervention. The disciples want to capture this moment and freeze it in time by building shrines, but Jesus is adamant that the journey must continue to its final outcome, which will confirm God's action in human history. It is not until Christ has been raised that the truth of this vision will be known.

- How do you look forward to your baptism or reception? Will it be a single moment of glory and joy?
- How will you continue the journey after that moment has been experienced?



*Just a reminder
that there will be
NO 7am or 6pm Mass
in Singleton
NEXT Sunday.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

3rd Sunday of Lent- Year A

1st Reading: Ex 17:3-7

2nd Reading: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: Jn 4:5-42



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 15 March 2020 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Time | Welcomer | Commentator | Readers | Prayers | Gifts | Extra-ordinary Ministers |
| 7am Singleton | | | | | | |
| 10am Singleton | R Gee R James | N Marzol | M Worden | B Drayton | | M Stowe M Dagg T Wells |
| 6pm Singleton | | | | | | |
| 6pm Saturday Branxton | | | C Trunk C Szumilus | | S Farnham J Taylor | E Bendeich S Trunk S Stafa |
| 8am Sunday Greta | | | C Campbell K Ingold | | N Ernst M Peters | L Gorczyca L Harrison J Clarke |
| Counters ST PATS | 10 March | H Rapp | | | 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 and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Barry Goodwin, Jane Stocks, Harold Stocks, Ben Dyer, Des O'Connor, Vera Hoffman, Jim Thrift, Ted Trunk. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

Baptism: Owen Edwards (Branxton) and Walter Price (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

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|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 9 March | Tuesday 10 March | Wednesday 11 March | Thursday 12 March | Friday 13 March | Saturday 14 March | Sunday 15 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton (Year 1 & 10) | 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Anointing Mass Elizabeth Gates | 9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9.45am Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton | 10.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton |
| | 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta | | 9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton | | 5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton | 8.00am 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 this 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.

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.

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.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild will meet for their monthly meeting on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 1.30pm at Marie Pease's house, 1/33 Ardiers Drive, Singleton. New members always welcome!

Back to Singleton and St Patrick's Day Mass

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.

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 are encouraged to attend the information evening on Monday 16 March 2020 at 6.45pm in the St Catherine's College Senior Library. For more information email stpatriksparish.debball@outlook.com.

Singleton Parish Property Update

Parishioners in Singleton Parish are asked to read the handout available at the back of the church 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. Please have submissions in by 18 March.

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.

Upper Hunter Tour of Darley stud, has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

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.

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.

Update on COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

In light of the current concerns about the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is observing the following precautions until further notice:

1. Individuals should consider their potential to infect others with an infectious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.
2. Holy water stoups are to be emptied of holy water.
3. When exchanging the sign of peace, members of the assembly are to avoid shaking hands.
4. Holy Communion from the Chalice is to be restricted to the celebrant(s) for the time being.
5. Holy Communion is not to be given on the tongue until further notice.
6. Alcohol-based gels or other hand sanitisers, tissues and bins will be available near the entrances to church building.
7. Parishioners are to be reminded that if they are too unwell to attend Sunday Mass, they can fulfil the Sunday obligation by prayer within their home, reading the Scriptures, or watching Mass on television.
8. Those assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion are to observe good hand hygiene.
9. More detail on these measures can be found on the notice board.

Project Compassion – 2nd Week of Lent

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. 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.



let's celebrate

17 March marks the feast of our Church's patron, St Patrick. As one community, we will gather to celebrate this feast on Sunday 15 March during the 10.00am mass which will be followed by morning tea in the St Catherine's Catholic College Hall. The College is also displaying memorabilia from the College and the Parish to celebrate Singleton's 200th founding anniversary, which was first named Patrick's Plains after our patron Saint.

While preparing for this celebration, it is realized that we are celebrating our 175th anniversary of the founding of St Patrick's Parish this year. Some may contest this since a plaque has been fixed in the Church recognizing 1846 as the year we were founded. However, research published by Michael Sternbeck in 1997 points to the arrival of the Augustinian priest and our first Pastor, Father Michael Stephens OSA, as the day of our foundation as a Parish. He arrived in Singleton on the 5th of October 1845.

Let us gather on the feast of St Patrick to celebrate Singleton's Bicentenary and you are invited to think about how we, as one Parish community, can celebrate our 175th Founding Anniversary later this year.



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.

2. The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 7 October 2019

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

To be continued during the weeks of Lent...



Lent & Easter

Stations of the Cross

St Patrick's Church, Singleton
St Brigid's Church, Branxton

Wednesdays of Lent after 9.20am Mass.
Thursdays of Lent after 9.20am Mass

Reconciliation

St Patrick's Church, Singleton
St Patrick's Church, Singleton
St Brigid's Church, Branxton

Wednesday 25 March 2020, 6pm – Sacramental Program
Thursday 26 March 2020, 6pm - Parish
Wednesday 1 April 2020, 6pm – Sacramental Program

Chrism Mass

Tuesday 7 April 2020
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Hamilton 7.00pm

Good Friday - 10 April

Stations of the Cross
St Patrick's Church, 11am
St Brigid's Church, 10am

Holy Saturday - 11 April

Easter Vigil
St Patrick's Church, 6.30pm
St Brigid's Church, 6.30pm

Thursday of Holy Week - 9 April

Mass of the Lord's Supper
St Patrick's Church TBA
St Brigid's Church, TBA

Passion of the Lord

St Patrick's Church, 3pm
St Catherine's Church, 3pm

Easter Sunday - 12 April

St Catherine's Church, 8am
St Patrick's Church, 10am
St Patrick's Church, 6pm