

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

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**MISSION SUNDAY**

**18 October 2020**

**First Reading** **Is 45:1, 4-6**  
*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:  
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the  
setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7**

**(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.  
**(R.)**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens.  
**(R.)**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**



**Second Reading** **1 Thes 1:1-5**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** **Phil 2:15, 16**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Shine on the world like bright stars;**  
**you are offering it the word of life.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mt 22:15-21**  
*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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



## **REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

### **Whose Image and Likeness?**

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. **They** are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, **and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.**'

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

**1st Reading:** Ex 22:20-26

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thes 1:5-10

**Gospel:** Mt 22:34-40



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Ann Bray, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Bill Damstra, Victoria Diputado, Rachel Eather, Peter Ernst, Bridgid Field, Janice Haines, Ron Hebbe, Jonah Iona, Boston Kiernan, Willie McGilligan, Charlie Nichols, Clare Quade, Anne Standing, Alan Thomas, John Thomas, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Dunn, Margaret Holz, Evelyn Meyn, Errol Redgrove, Pat Ryan, Clyde Standing. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Tony O'Connor, Ann McCormack, John Stedman. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Parish Contacts**

Parish Priest	<b>Fr Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Assistant Priest	<b>Fr Anthony Coloma</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au">anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Secretary	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		singletonbranxton @parish_sb
		<b>YouTube</b> <b>Twitter</b>	
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
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
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
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

**Schools in our Parishes**

St. Catherine's Catholic College	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<b>Director: Ms Saleena Rosee</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<b>Director: Ms Trudy McGovern</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**Mass Roster Sunday 25 October 2020**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>		D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	M Porter C Szumilas	L Gorczyca D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Gifts</b>		J Gorczyca	J Walker H Standing			
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						<b>NO Ministers of Communion are required.</b>

*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.*

**Weekly Mass Diary**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>19 October</b> <i>St John de Brebeuf &amp; Isaac Jogues &amp; Com. St Paul of the Cross</i>	<b>20 October</b>	<b>21 October</b>	<b>22 October</b> <i>St John Paul II</i>	<b>23 October</b> <i>St John of Capistrano</i>	<b>24 October</b> <i>St Anthony Claret</i>	<b>25 October</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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.

## Our Churches Are COVID Safe

Our churches are registered COVID Safe businesses with NSW Health. A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms (even if they are mild):

- Fever (37.5 ° or higher)
- cough
- sore/scratchy throat
- shortness of breath
- loss of smell
- or loss of taste



You can now CHECK-IN by scanning the displayed QR code with your **Service NSW App**. Just download the App to your phone, open the app when you enter the church, scan the code and show the welcomer that you are registered.

This option validates your data as it is scanned and securely sends it to Service NSW for storage - so we are complying with check in requirements without having to keep physical copies in the Parish. It also means NSW Health can access customer details faster which makes it easier for contact tracing. **You can still add your name to our list if you don't have this option.**

## Registering for Mass

Please phone the Parish Office or email your name and contact phone number to register for Mass by 12pm Friday if you have not ticked that you are attending next week on the registration sheet at Mass.

## Keeping Sunday Holy – What Can We Do?

Due to the limit in the number of people able to attend any particular Mass, all members of the Church of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle *continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass*. Those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass are encouraged to keep Sunday holy through the use of the resources below:

### Mass Live-Streamed from St Patrick's Church, Singleton

For the benefit of the homebound, weekday Mass will be streamed on Facebook Live each day from the St Patrick's Church Masses as per the Mass Roster and Sunday Mass will be live streamed from the 7am Mass at St Patrick's Church. Everyone can view Mass on our **Parish Facebook page** - Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton ([www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish](http://www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish)) – you do not need to have a Facebook account.

### Resources from LiturgyHelp

This is the time to use LiturgyHelp to its fullest capacity. Everyone in the diocese – individuals and families – can access a range of resources being made available through a special login. Parishioners should go to [www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess) and enter their name and email address. This is for all people in communities connected to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

## Prayers for the Sick

The prayer list for the sick will be cleared at the end of October. If you wish a name to remain on the list, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone.



Still today, landmine accidents are prevalent in Cambodia, a cruel reminder of the country's troubled past, even for those who were not yet born during the tumultuous years of the Khmer Rouge regime and ensuing civil conflicts.

You will hear about Chen's story - how his landmine accident has affected not only his life, but that of his family; and how the Arrupe Centre, led by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, is providing many children and families affected by disability with the support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Today you have the opportunity to support the Arrupe Centre as it continues this essential work. You may choose to become a monthly partner, in which your gifts will fund community and child-focused programs run by the Church in Cambodia. Your one-off gift today is also very much appreciated and will make a great difference to those in need in Cambodia and around the world.



Freecall: 1800 257 296 | [catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia](http://catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia)



## What am I supposed to be doing with my life?

This is a question that most people must contend with from time to time. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle offers a variety of ministry services to the local community and many rewarding career opportunities for those who feel called to work in this field. **The Pastoral Placement Program** offers a yearlong encounter in these ministerial occupations. Pastoral Ministries are calling for applications for the 2021 intake of participants for this unique program.

For more information visit the Pastoral Placement Website:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

Email: [formed@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:formed@mn.catholic.org.au) Phone: 4979 1193

To apply: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/>  
Applications close Friday 15 November 2020.

## Public Rosary - Greta

The Public Rosary was held last Saturday at St. Catherine's Greta. Thank you to those 14 people who came along for being a witness to the power of prayer especially through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother and the Holy Rosary. We had a lovely morning together and shared morning tea afterwards. May our Blessed Mother continue to guide you closer to her son.



## ATTENDING PUBLIC MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCHES

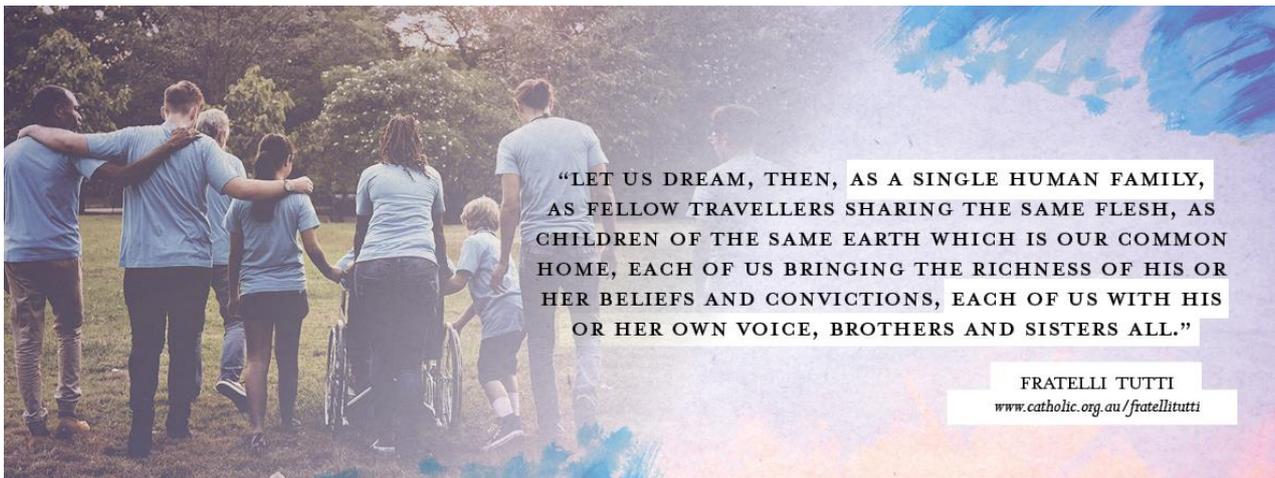
Please see the noticeboard in each church for a full set of instructions which have been derived from a directive from the Office of the Bishop and will be in place to allow Public Mass to be celebrated in our Parishes. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This notice can also be found on the Parish website [www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au](http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au) and the Parish Facebook Page 'Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton' along with a copy of the COVID Safety Plan.

In accordance with the Public Health Order, Public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 80 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 75 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 45 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

### REGISTERING TO ATTEND MASS

1. Please register to attend Mass by 12pm on the Friday before the Mass by phoning 02 5507 4048 or email to [singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au). You can nominate on the sheet that you will attend the next week.
2. Those who are unable to register early can sign-in at the entrance of the church until limits are reached.
3. As a legal requirement of registering you will need to provide your FULL NAME and PHONE NUMBER. You can also register with the *Service NSW App* using the QR code at the entrance of each church.
4. When you attend Mass you agree that
  - a. You are well (not suffering from sore throat, temperature or other cold-like symptoms) *and*
  - b. you are not required to self-isolate due to your travel history or having had a COVID-19 test *and*
  - c. That in the past 14 days you have not had or you are not aware of any close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 *and*
  - d. That you do not have any reason to suspect that you have or may have COVID-19 *and*
  - e. You have not travelled from a 'hot spot' area.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS IF YOU ARE UNWELL**



"LET US DREAM, THEN, AS A SINGLE HUMAN FAMILY, AS FELLOW TRAVELLERS SHARING THE SAME FLESH, AS CHILDREN OF THE SAME EARTH WHICH IS OUR COMMON HOME, EACH OF US BRINGING THE RICHNESS OF HIS OR HER BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS, EACH OF US WITH HIS OR HER OWN VOICE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL."

FRATELLI TUTTI  
[www.catholic.org.au/fratellitutti](http://www.catholic.org.au/fratellitutti)

On 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis Assisi, Pope Francis signed his latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, in the tomb of his papal namesake. Meaning, "**Brothers All,**" Fratelli Tutti tells us that the COVID-19 pandemic has both exposed the many of failings of our world and has shown us that "no one can face life in isolation."

You can read the full text of Fratelli Tutti here: <https://bit.ly/33CzRPI>

Vatican News provided a short summary of the encyclical that you can read here: <https://bit.ly/3iKQ3Da>

*"Lord, Father of our human family,  
you created all human beings equal in dignity:  
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit  
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,  
dialogue, justice and peace.  
Move us to create healthier societies  
and a more dignified world,  
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.  
May our hearts be open  
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.  
May we recognize the goodness and beauty  
that you have sown in each of us,  
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,  
and shared dreams. Amen."*