

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

17 January 2021

First Reading 1 Sm 3:3-10, 19
A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8-9

**(R.) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R.)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20
A reading from the first book of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:41, 17

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:35-42
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

What's in a Name?

What's in a name? A Lot, if it is God who confers the name. Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of God-for-us, knew the power of naming in relation to calling and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus exercised the divine prerogative of changing Simon's name to 'Cephas' which in English is 'Peter'. Jesus gave Simon a nickname, 'rock-solid' which was the exact opposite of his character! Nevertheless, he did become the rock on which Jesus built his Church.

The tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name 'Francis' which indicates that he believes that the Holy Spirit inspired the Cardinals to choose him to be Pope to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

Each one of us has a divinely ordained name (Rev 2:17) which we may not be aware of, but the Holy Spirit is always prompting us to live up to that name. We could pause for a moment to pray that we might so live as to reach Heaven to find that name which God has loved from and for all eternity

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you,
O God, and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that
quenches my thirst.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Jon 3:1-5, 10

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel: Mk 1:14-20



Prayer Requests

Sick: Pat Behringer, Bernadette Coffey, Bill Damstra, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, 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: Cecil Crouch, Pam Davy, Alf Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Jean Bard, Brian Tierney, Nicole Munro, Tommy Weiers and Bernie McAlister. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Macy Deakin (St Patrick's Singleton, Sunday) **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Fr Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9650	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
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		singletonbranxton@parish_sb
		YouTube	
		Twitter	
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

Schools in our Parishes

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 Singleton	Director: Ms Saleena Rosee	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Trudy McGovern	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

Mass Roster Sunday 24 January 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
Readers	M Thomas C Szumilas	L Pozywio	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Partridge	P Bridge	J Walker H Standing	M Petrie & Helper		
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						NO Ministers of Communion are required.

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
18 January	19 January	20 January St Fabian St Sebastian	21 January St Agnes	22 January St Vincent	23 January	24 January 3 rd SUNDAY ORD TIME, YEAR B
8.00am Mass	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm 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	8.15am Mass St Catherine's Greta **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

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 Parish Mass. If you are new members of 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

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 with our conditions of entry. 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. In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people in St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

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



HAVE YOU CHECKED IN? Please ensure you have your name on the registration list or used the QR code to check-in today!



The Parish Office will be open Monday 18 January 9am-3pm (closed between 10.30am and 12.30pm for funeral) and **CLOSED Thursday 21 January.**

Changes to Mass times

Mass in Greta will be said at **8.15am** (instead of 8am) on 10, 17, 24, 31 January and 7 February 2021.

Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment. See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

Singing at Mass

Members of the congregation can join in singing during Mass, however, it is **recommended** that anyone over the age of 12 wear a mask while doing so. Singing during the celebration of Mass or other liturgies remains a high-risk activity, particularly when undertaken as a group or a community.

Prayers for a New Year

We are faced with many challenges in our life. Do we buy this house? Do we move towns for better employment? Do we allow our 15-year-old to leave school? Do we accept the Doctor's advice regarding surgery? Do we move to a retirement village? Over and over we have to make decisions - sometimes on our own, sometimes consulting with the family. It can be scary. There is always God to help. If we open our hearts and minds to God and ask for guidance we will find in time He has answered us.

Maybe you find it difficult to pray when you are so stressed. Your mind is full of doubts, "what ifs". This can be the time to contact the **PRAYER CHAIN** and ask for their support. Just phone Barb 6574 1274 or Rita 6576 4097. We know that your privacy is of the utmost concern so we do not require a name just the reason for prayers. There are 18 of us who are available to pray together for you and with you, any day.

I wonder would you like to join our group? Sadly, we lose some of our members over the year and are always looking for new faces. Would you consider this please - it's just receiving a request by phone, passing it on to another and then praying in your own way at home. For more details, contact me or Rita. Regards Barb Drayton

Message from the Council for Catholic Women (CACW)

As 2020 draws to a close there is much to look forward to for the women of our Diocese. Earlier this year the Council of Catholic Women (CACW) was disbanded hence members of the former Diocesan contact group have been challenged with keeping our women informed and included in future directions as we embark on a new beginning.

To that end some members of the former contact group have written to Bishop Bill in the interest of forming a Diocesan Council for Women. Whilst awaiting a response, a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 11 February 2021 at 4pm in the Toohey Room. **Please enter this date in your diary** as our vision is to include all Diocesan women through conversations, visits or Zoom to all parts of the Diocese and interest groups that are inclusive, reflective and fun.

Christian Formation Course 2021

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units. Commencing on Tuesday February 2, 2021, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation. If you would like to enrol in the Christian Formation Course in 2021 go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

Prayer to Saint Joseph

*Hail Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

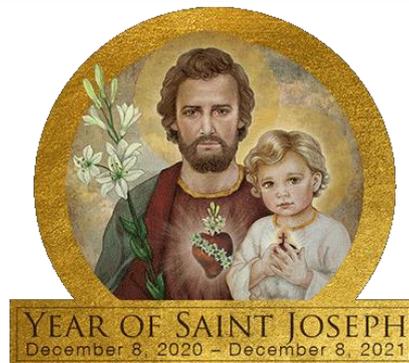
ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCHES

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, along with a copy of the COVID Safety Plan. 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 and the Parish Facebook Page 'Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton'.

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THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter about Saint Joseph, to mark the opening of a Year of Saint Joseph, which runs from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. The title of the Letter is *Patris Corde*, which means "With a Father's Love". This recognises that all 4 Gospels refer to Jesus as "the son of Joseph", even though Joseph was not his biological father. For centuries, Joseph's name was hardly mentioned, because the very fact that he thought of sending Mary away seemed wrong. Everything changed 150 years ago, Blessed Pius IX named Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church. Some of you will have seen Pope Francis' Meditation in the Time of Pandemic, when he was the only person in front of St. Peter's Basilica, when he recognised the contribution being made "by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others". What he praised in them is not only generosity, but a willingness to work patiently spreading "not panic, but shared responsibility" and, in many cases, praying and encouraging others to pray. "Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble".



Catholics have traditionally held Joseph in great affection. St. Teresa of Ávila often prayed to him and encouraged others to do the same. Prayers are offered to him every Wednesday and the month of March is dedicated to him. Pope Francis is convinced that "in Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God". That is because Joseph doubted his own ability to do the things God asked him to do. "The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty". Joseph was able to accept his own weaknesses and Pope Francis is sure this moulded the atmosphere in the life of the Holy Family. "Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture". Joseph is a fine example, because he "accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words". His life teaches us to accept rather than to explain: he was not resigned to the inevitable, but a very proactive person. His example can teach us to "set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage". Joseph's approach can allow miracles to happen in our lives, and "encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Corinthians 1, 27)". Pope Francis is sure God used Joseph to achieve His purpose, and he is convinced God can use us, too.

Pope Francis offers us an interesting challenge: he suggests we should ask "whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping"; Jesus entered the world "in a state of great vulnerability" and Joseph had to defend, protect and care for Him; we are called to do the same. The child Jesus is often the "poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person" we come across. The child Jesus grew up and taught us, "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25, 40). If we respond positively to this challenge, we are continuing Joseph's mission. The Holy Father is convinced that "being a father entails introducing children to life and reality", not being over-protective but "making them capable of deciding for themselves"; the alternative is a selfish caricature of love which "imprisons, constricts and makes for misery". The positive alternative? "When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom". A father is a real father "when he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care". Genuine fatherhood has nothing to do with possession; a real father is a shadow on earth of our heavenly Father, "a shadow that follows his Son".