

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

1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

21 February 2021

First Reading

Gen 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth,
and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Pt 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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

Mk 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

The Rainbow

The Rainbow is God's signature to a treaty with humankind. On God's part, material forces will never be sent to annihilate human beings as a punishment for wrongdoing. On our part, as humans made in the likeness of God, we are to image God's rainbow relationship to nature.

This is the Divine Treaty basis of our responsibility for the environment. We undertake not to engage in practices or support policies which could severely damage the fragile ecology which supports life on our planet. The deforestation of the slopes of the Himalayas, leading to floods which kill thousands, is a catastrophic example.

And, gazing at the rainbow, we can pray for our planet, for the human beings and all other creatures who inhabit it, and quite often for ourselves at a deep personal level. For we know that, just as after a storm and dark clouds, light penetrates the misty sky and the beautiful bow of colour appears, the same phenomenon can occur in our own lives. We could take a moment to pray that the rainbow will appear, perhaps for ourselves, perhaps for others we know who are going through a stormy time.

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Prayer Requests

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 B

1st Reading: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: Rom 8:31-34

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10



Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Bill Damstra, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, Anne Standing, Alan Thomas, John Thomas, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, Jane Winsor O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

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

Baptisms: Zoe Rinkin, Asha Miskin, Hunter & Archie Williamson (Singleton) and Jonty Chapman (Branxton). **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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish			
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 Amy Hunter	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Natalie James	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

Mass Roster Sunday 28 February 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		M Ingold	G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		M Ingold	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	C & A Trunk	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
22 February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	23 February St Polycarp	24 February	25 February	26 February	27 February	28 February 2 nd SUNDAY OF LENT, 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
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.45am Rosary 8.15am 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 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 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!

Lenten Reflection Groups

If you wish to join the Lenten reflection group, please place your name on the sheet on the noticeboard. This will be a five-week program during Lent 2021 (17 February – 31 March) based upon the Five Foundations of the Diocesan Synod Planning Framework. (See back page for overview).

The Reflection Group will be held in Greta after the Tuesday morning Mass and in Singleton after the Wednesday morning Mass. Please indicate if you will be attending by placing your name on the sheet in the church.

The groups will be led by Synod members from our parishes. Peter Conroy from Branxton and John Bray from Singleton have volunteered to be synod members and their membership was approved by the Bishop.

If you are unable to join the group, booklets are available at each church for you to reflect in your own time.

For more information about Synod visit the website www.domnsynod.com.au

Come Pray the Rosary!

You are invited to join us to pray the Holy Rosary at St Catherine's, Greta on Tuesday's from 8.50am, prior to our 9.20am Mass. We will be commencing praying of the Holy Rosary on Sunday's prior to Mass at 7.45am. Everyone is welcome from any Parish to come and help us raise as many voices to the Blessed Virgin Mary as we can.

Way of the Cross During Lent

The Way of the Cross will be held in St Brigid's Church Branxton after Thursday morning Mass and in St Patrick's Church Singleton after Friday morning Mass. All are welcome to attend in preparation for Easter.

Project Compassion – Jamila's story



Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family.

Videos of each Project Compassion story will be shared to our Facebook page each Sunday at 7.00am.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Commercial Space for Lease

13 Campbell Street, Singleton is available for lease. Floor Area 420 m2 • Land Area 1200 m2 • Rear Access and Car Parking • Split Air Conditioner • Floor Coverings • Data Cabling • For further information contact Allan Cruickshanks Phone 0407 724 930 acruickshanks@ljh.com.au

World Day of Prayer - Vanuatu

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

You are invited to attend this year's World Day of Prayer services in our Parishes on Friday 5 March 2021.

The service in Branxton will be held in St Brigid's Church, Branxton at **10am**. You are asked to bring a plate to share after the service.

The service in Singleton will be held at the Singleton Uniting Church in Church Street at **7pm**.

This year's theme is "**Build on a Strong Foundation**" Through the worship service we hear the voices of the Vanuatu women, whom invite us to focus on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuatu. The combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels. On April 6th, 2020, Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold, which had made its way across the Pacific destroying many islands in its wake.

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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'.

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 St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta. Please ensure you have registered as you entered the church.



WEEK TWO REFLECTION Worship and Prayer

Videos of the Gospel reading, Bishop Bill's response to the Gospel and a Reflection on the Foundation for the week will be on our Facebook page each Tuesday from 10.00am. You can watch these to be ready for the reflection group the next day. The first one will be available on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

The Church of Maitland-Newcastle is centred on Christ, the Cornerstone, and seeks always to live as a community of people who pray and worship.

Our Story reminds us that since the beginning Jesus' followers have devoted themselves to the 'breaking of bread and the prayers' – in memory of Jesus.

Foundational Statements point to the qualities that should identify communities of Jesus' disciples who pray and worship.

Concerns summarise the issues raised by diocesan respondents to the Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Session as well as those who submitted written responses at the first session of our Diocesan Synod in November 2019.

Recommendations suggest what could be done to address the concerns raised.

We gather in community – to pray, to break open the Word, to celebrate, to encourage and support one another, to mourn our losses, to be nourished and strengthened for mission.

In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience his tenderness. (Pope Francis on Twitter)

Miracles happen. But prayer is needed! Prayer that is courageous, struggling and persevering, not prayer that is a mere formality (Pope Francis on Twitter)

You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works (Pope Francis on Twitter)

We believe that our mission finds its source and summit in the Eucharist (LG 11). When lived in everyday life and celebrated in the liturgy, the Eucharist is the living symbol of Christ's life, death and resurrection and celebrates the deepest identity of the Church as a communion of life, love and truth.

When you hear 'The body of Christ' you reply 'Amen.' Be a member of Christ's body, then, so that your 'Amen' may ring true. (from a homily by St Augustine)

We seldom notice how each day is a holy place/ Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens/ Transforming our broken fragments/ Into an eternal continuity that keeps us. (John O'Donohue A Book of Blessings 2007).

"The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open ... This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself 'the door': Baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 47).

We know that life has a sacramental dimension and that our sacramental rituals are moments of deeper communion with the God who created us for love.

We human beings need signs and symbols to express what cannot be expressed in words (Thomas Groome, *What Makes Us Catholic: the Sacramental Principle* 2012).

Catholic Christians tend to associate sacramentality too exclusively with what happens in church, with the celebration of the seven sacraments. ... the great sacraments are simply climactic celebrations of the sacramentality of life... (Ibid).

... all the sacraments are symbolised by the 'ordinary' of life, by bread, wine, water, oil, touch, words, gestures, and lovemaking in marriage. Each symbolises something profoundly everyday that by the power of God's Spirit continues the saving mission of Jesus (Ibid).