

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B**

**28 February 2021**

**First Reading Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**  
*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9**

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Rom 8:31-34**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt 4:4**

**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**

**Mk 9:2-10**

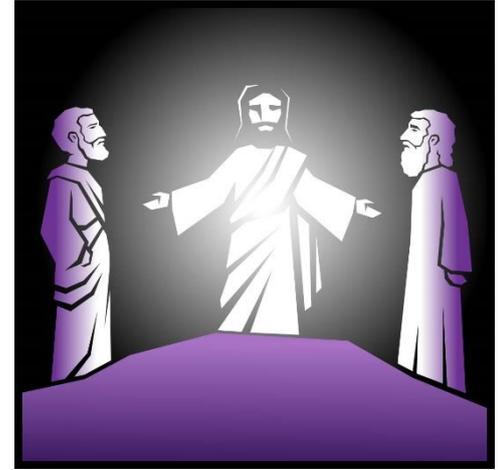
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

### ***Transfigured Bodysouls***

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

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# Prayer Requests

## 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B

**1st Reading:** Ex 20:1-17

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 1:22-25

**Gospel:** Jn 2:13-25



**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:** Eileen O'Brien. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Samuel Esperandos, Michael Foote and Mick Gall. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Isla Christensen (Branxton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

## 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	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	<b>Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299</b>
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	<b>Contact: 6577 6168</b>
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	<b>Contact: 0407 381 525</b>
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	<b>Contact: 0428 485 025</b>

## 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 Amy Hunter</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 Natalie James</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## Mass Roster Sunday 7 March 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	L Sneesby Tooth	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	D Jarrett S Wheeler		
<b>Commentator</b>		K Ingold	G Cattermole	R Gee		
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas C Szumilas	L Gorczyca	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg C Davey J Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		K Ingold	P Boyd	T Wells	K Davey	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	J Partridge	G Wilton	G Cattermole			
<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 1 March	Tuesday 2 March p	Wednesday 3 March	Thursday 4 March	Friday 5 March	Saturday 6 March	Sunday 7 March 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 8.00am 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 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!**

## **Mass Time - Greta**

Sunday Mass in Greta will go back to 8.00am from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **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 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](http://www.domnsynod.com.au)

## **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.

## **Thank You from the Fiesta Committee**

The Fiesta Committee would like to thank everyone who came along and helped to celebrate Fiesta this year! They have been able to donate **\$1878.35** to the Singleton Parish from raffle ticket sales and donations on the day. The winners of the raffle have all been contacted – congratulations to them!

## **Project Compassion – Margret's story**



Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

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

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.**

You can donate through Parish boxes or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## **First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's**

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on **Saturday 6 March at 9.20am** to pray for the soul of Anne Boyd and any others whose anniversary occurs at this time. All are welcome to attend. If you have any queries, please contact Elaine Thomas on 0432 870012.

## **World Day of Prayer - Vanuatu**

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**.

*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.*

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.

## **St Nicholas Early Education Open Day - Branxton**

St Nick's at Branxton will be holding an Open Day on **Saturday 13 March from 9.30-11.30am**. An invitation is extended to all parishioners from Branxton-Greta and Singleton to come and join the fun and activities. To register your attendance go to their website [www.stnicholasmn.org.au/Branxton-open-day](http://www.stnicholasmn.org.au/Branxton-open-day)

## 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](http://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 THREE REFLECTION Formation & Education

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 educate and form.

Our Story takes us to the source of our faith in the early church when they devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching: to deepening their understanding of what Jesus taught.

Foundational Statements remind us of the responsibility we have as individuals and as communities of Jesus' disciples to deepen our relationship with Jesus and our understanding of his mission.

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 believe that formation in faith is an essential and life-long process and the heritage and responsibility of every Christian.**

Formation (and not just information) ... is not for a select few, but for the faithful generally. As Church, we need to give priority to this (Br Peter Carroll FMS, 14 July 2020)

For lay leaders assuming leadership for governance roles in the Church, especially for those whose expertise has been primarily in the commercial world, formation is needed to ensure a comprehensive understanding is acquired of the nature of the Church and the servant leadership required for service within the Church, either as an employee or as a member of a board. (The Light from the Southern Cross p 89).

Children and young people grow in awareness of themselves and search for meaning and purpose in their lives and in the world around them. Children begin this journey enabled by the nurturing love of parents and families. (Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools 2017 p 5).

**We understand that formation for mission is respectful, experiential and relevant, building on participants' personal story and everyday reality.**

The questions of our people, their suffering, their struggles, their dreams, their trials and their worries, all possess a... value that we cannot ignore if we want to take the principle of the incarnation seriously. Their wondering helps us to wonder, their questions question us. (Pope Francis September 2015).

"Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey?" (Pope Francis, July 2013).

When [formation] brings faith into dialogue with life it has the capacity to be a source of wisdom, a stimulus to lifelong learning, a means to personal transformation and a call to missionary discipleship (Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools – National Catholic Education Commission, 2017, p 5).

**We are nourished and inspired by formation that is scripturally rich and ecclesially grounded, and deepens our relationship with Jesus, the living Word of God.**

It is absolutely necessary for us to take into account the heritage of faith that the Church has the duty of preserving and presenting it to the people of our time in a way that is as understandable and persuasive as possible (Pope Paul VI, Evangelii nuntiandi, 3)

For the Catholic school to achieve its objectives, it needs people who are committed to this faith-filled vision, confident in their understanding of the Christian faith as it comes to expression in the Catholic tradition and eager to do their best to help their students grow in their own understanding of the presence of God at work in their lives. (A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education – National Catholic Education Commission, 2017, p 3).