



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

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

7 March 2021

First Reading Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.
(shorter form)

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.'

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.'

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.'

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.'

'You shall not kill.'

'You shall not commit adultery.'

'You shall not steal.'

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.'

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house.'

'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:22-25
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much,
he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him
might have eternal life.**

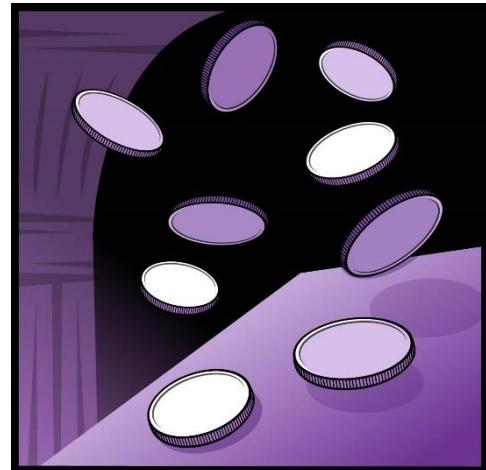
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Jn 2:13-25
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Where does God really dwell?

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterise a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'.

By the time Jesus came on the scene, the Temple in Jerusalem was no longer a fit dwelling place for a God who desires to free people from oppression and exploitation. To the contrary, Jesus saw the Temple ideology as placing undue burdens and shackles on people.

His anger at this erupted in dramatic street theatre. His overturning of the tables of the money-changers signalled the overturning of the Temple system.

What Our Lord revealed to uncomprehending authorities was that His body was the true sanctuary. The body of Jesus of Nazareth is the dwelling place of God, the habitation of the Lord God who liberates people. In short, God's sanctuary is not a place, but a person.

We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.'

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Prayer Requests

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: Patricia Lynch, Francis Trunk, Teddy Trunk, Barry Goodwin, Jane Stocks, Ben Dyer. *Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: Samuel Esperandos, Harry Fullerton and Charlie Veech. *May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*

Baptisms: Spencer Iliffe (Branxton), Chloe Summersby and Riley Gatt (Singleton). *Called by name to be a child of God.*

Marriages: Luke Menegazzi and Siena Sullivan at the Church of Immaculate Conception Broke on 13 March 2021 *What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.*



ENTRANCE ANTIphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

COMMUNION ANTIphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

4th Sunday of Lent, Year B

1st Reading: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

2nd Reading: Eph 2:4-10

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

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	YouTube Twitter	singletonbranxton @parish_sb
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Singleton	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	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 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 14 March 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	J Dries	J Dries	
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	J Patton	E Janssen	
Readers	S Trunk C Murray	L Pozywio	J Duldualo H Duldualo	T Cochrane	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J & S Stafa	T Ernst	C O'Connor J Cox			
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
8 March St John of God	9 March St Frances of Rome	10 March	11 March	12 March	13 March	14 March 4 th SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B
8.00am Mass	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass <u>10.00am Novena</u> 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
					6.00pm Mass Broke	
	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 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 Reconciliation

"Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: 'Be reconciled to God' (2 Corinthians 5:20). Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2021

You are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent at one of our Parish liturgies. St Patrick's Singleton, Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 6pm or St Brigid's Branxton on Friday 26 March 2021 at 6pm.

2021 Sacramental Program

The Parishes are pleased to announced that the Sacramental Program will be continuing in 2021. Changes to the format have been made to ensure physical distancing restrictions are met.

BRANXTON PARISH: All children in year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are asked to attend an information meeting on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 5.30pm in St Brigid's Church, Branxton. To assist with the limited numbers in the church we ask that only ONE adult accompany your child/ren. 2020 candidates are asked to attend this meeting also.

SINGLETON PARISH: All children in year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are asked to contact the parish office to register their interest in the program which will commence in Term 2 with an info meeting on Weds 21 April.

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.

Novena in the Year of St Joseph

In this year of St Joseph, in preparation for the celebration of the feast of St Joseph, we will be praying novena from 10 March after Mass in St Patrick's Church, Singleton.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome to just turn up and join us.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The monthly meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights.

St Patrick's Day Dinner

Parishioners are invited to join together for dinner to celebrate St Patrick's Day on Wednesday 17 March 2021 from 6pm in the Club Singleton Restaurant. Please place your name on sheet at the back of St Patrick's Church to register your attendance.

Project Compassion – Olivia's story



Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.** You can donate through Parish boxes or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Children's Ministry Advice Group

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are currently looking for people to join a diocesan Children's Ministry Advisory Group. This group will assist the Education Officer with teaching and learning ideas and resource recommendations to enhance the faith formation experience for ALL children within our local communities including Catholic Sacraments of Initiation, Special Religious Education (SRE), Children's Liturgy and Youth and Outreach Groups such as Activ8. For an expression of interest form please go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/childrens-ministries/>

LGBTIQ Catholic Forum Pre-Synod Consultation

Building the Kingdom of God Together

Members of the LGBTIQ community are invited to attend a Pre-Synod Consultation Forum on Sunday 21 March 2021 from 1.00pm – 4.00pm in the Toohey Room; 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West NSW. To RSVP and access to pre-reading please contact LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

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

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.



Synod 2021

WEEK FOUR 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 reach out and serve.

Our Story takes us to the source of our identity in the early church where Jesus disciple were described as sharing their resources and caring for all those in need.

Foundational Statements remind us of what should characterise communities who are committed to Jesus' mission of taking to the whole world the Good News of God's love.

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 regard every individual as having equal dignity and worth and because we believe that the Spirit is at work throughout the world, we respect those whose beliefs differ from our own.

If I encounter a person sleeping outdoors on a cold night, I can view him or her as an annoyance...a problem for politicians to sort out, or even a piece of refuse cluttering a public space. Or I can respond with faith and charity, and see in this person a human being with a dignity identical to my own ... an image of God. (Pope Francis Rejoice and Be Glad 98).

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people. (St Teresa of Avila 1515-1582).

We acknowledge and seek to be enriched by the history and wisdom of Indigenous peoples while acknowledging that reconciliation for past injustices remains a goal rather than an achievement.

The Church in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others. (Pope John Paul II speaking to Aboriginal people in 1986 NT).

To achieve an authentic Catholic Church in Australia, the gifts of perseverance, culture and spirituality of First Nations Catholics should be fully embraced. This goal can be achieved through education, participation in decision-making and a comprehensive commitment to fostering mutual respect between First Nations and non-Indigenous Catholics. (The Light from the Southern Cross p 74)

Because we believe that the Spirit is at work throughout the world, we respect those whose beliefs differ from our own, and seek to deepen our bonds with them.

The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in his wisdom, through which he created human beings. (From a document on human fraternity signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb).

The strength of what unites all of us as Christians is supremely important. We can be so attentive to what divides us that at times we no longer appreciate or value what unites us. (Pope Francis, Beloved Amazon 108).

We acknowledge all we have and enjoy as gifts from God and accept the responsibility to care for, nurture and share those gifts.

Given the state of our planet, given the climate change we already experience, given the devastating loss of species, given the terrible burden of ecological disaster on the poorest people of earth, I think Pope Francis's Laudato Si' may well be the most important church document of the twenty-first century. (Denis Edwards, Deep Incarnation: God's Redemptive Suffering with Creatures, 2019, p 128).