

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23
A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6
(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

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 3:14-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

God's Works of Art

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us.

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went,
I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

1st Reading: Jer 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Heb 5:7-9

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33



Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Bill Damstra, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, Anne Standing, 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: Paul Dunn, Gregory McShane, Des O'Connor, Connie Ryan and Harold Thrift. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Jaxon and Isaac Kiernan (Branxton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

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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 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 21 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	R Gee R James	J Dries	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	Jen Partridge T Sale	L Gorczyca	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	S McAlister M Thomas	J Gorczyca				
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
15 March <i>dd</i>	16 March	17 March ST PATRICK	18 March <i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	19 March ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	20 March	21 March 5th SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Novena St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Mercy Home	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>5.30pm</u> Reconciliation <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <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 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 announce 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 contact the Parish Office to register. The Program will commence with Commitment Mass on 27/28 March.

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.

St Patrick's Parish Property Development Feedback

The date for Singleton Parishioners to submit their feedback on the Property Development has been extended to 3 April 2021. For more information, please see Fr Thomas.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

The Stations 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.

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 or speak to Frieda King.

Easter Liturgy Rosters

Rosters have been placed at the back of St Patrick's Church for those who would like to put their name down for a ministry during the Easter liturgies.

St Patrick's Parish Finance Council

Do you have an interest in the financial sustainability of the Singleton Parish? Would you like to represent your fellow parishioners by serving on the Parish Finance Council? If you are interested please speak with Fr Thomas.

Receive the Bulletin by Email

If you would like to receive a copy of the Bulletin via email please send an email to the Parish Office singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au and we can add you to the distribution list. The Bulletin is usually emailed, loaded in picture format to the Parish Facebook Page and added to the Parish website on Fridays.

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time will end at 3am on Sunday 4 April. Singleton Parish evening Mass will change to 5pm from Tuesday 6 April 2021. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening, Broke and Glendonbrook masses. *Branxton Vigil Mass will NOT change.*

Project Compassion - Arsad's story



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

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

Let's Stay COVID-19 Free

1. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
2. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
3. **SANITISE** your hands. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
4. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
5. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.



Lent & Easter

Stations of the Cross

St Patrick's, Singleton after 9.20am Mass Fridays.
St Brigid's, Branxton after 9.20am Thursdays

Reconciliation

St Patrick's Church, Singleton Wednesday 24 March 2021, 6pm
St Brigid's Church, Branxton Friday 26 March 2021, 6pm

Chrism Mass – 30 March

Sacred Heart Cathedral
Hamilton 7.00pm

Good Friday - 2 April

Stations of the Cross
St Brigid's Branxton, 10am
St Patrick's Singleton, 11am

Holy Saturday – 3 April

Easter Vigil
St Patrick's Singleton, 7.40pm
St Brigid's Branxton, 7.40pm

Thursday of Holy Week – 1 April

Mass of the Lord's Supper
St Patrick's Singleton, 6.30pm
St Brigid's Branxton, 6.30pm

Passion of the Lord

St Patrick's Singleton, 3pm
St Catherine's Greta, 3pm

Easter Sunday – 4 April

St Catherine's Greta, 8am
St Patrick's Singleton, 10.00am
St Patrick's Singleton, 6.00pm



St. Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland's most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.

Why We Do The Things We Do



Why do we have stations of the cross?

Have you ever made a journey retracing the steps of an ancestor? In the early Church a tradition developed whereby Christians would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, retracing the journey that Jesus took to the Cross. Visual representations depicting the Passion of Jesus were erected along the way. In memory of this sacred path, the stations were popularised in art and as a devotional practice, encouraged especially by the Franciscans. There are fourteen stations in our modern day devotion whereby people move from station to station, reflecting upon the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

You can join this devotion after 9.20am Mass on Thursdays in Branxton or after 9.20am Mass on Fridays in Singleton during Lent.