

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

**The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - Year B**

**3 April 2021**

**First Reading**

**Gen 1:1-22:2**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

*God saw all he had made, and indeed it was good.*

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35. R. see v.30**

*(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe. **(R.)**

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains. **(R.)**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:  
they flow in between the hills.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song. **(R.)**

From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve man's needs. **(R.)**

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul!. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Ex 14:15-15:1**

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*

*Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground..*

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ex 15:1-6. 17-18. R. v.1**

*(R.) Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.*

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
This is my God and I extol him, my father's God and I give him praise. **(R.)**

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone. **(R.)**

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. **(R.)**

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**Third Reading**

**Is 55:1-11**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

*Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant..*

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Is 12:2-6 R. v.3**

*(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

Truly God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,  
declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy make them known to all the earth!  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**Epistle**

**Rom 6:3-11**

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

*Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.*

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

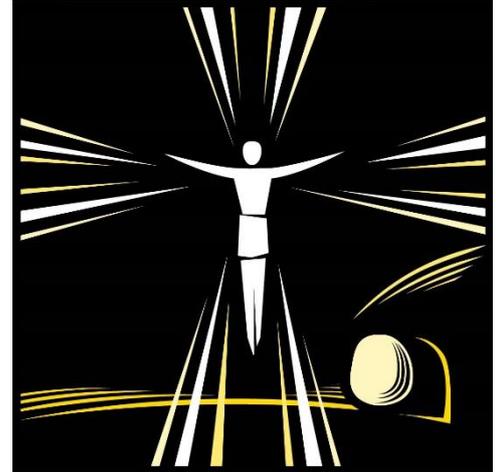
**Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23**

*(R.) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**



**Gospel**

**Mk 16:1-7**

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

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

# Prayer Requests

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.

**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, 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:** Bill Meissner, Barbara Jones, Nathan Grant. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Julia Crebert, Alida Ruigrok, Bill Damstra. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Confirmation:** Jennifer Arrowsmith (St Patrick's, Vigil). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Marriages:** Timothy Voigt and Katie Shearer (10 April St Patrick's) and Wilyen Aguino and Thi Kieu Nga Le (11 April, St Patrick's). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday of Easter – Year B

**1st Reading:** Acts 4:32-35

**2nd Reading:** 1 Jn 5:1-6

**Gospel:** Jn 20:19-31



## 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)<br>Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a><br>Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a> |
| Facebook  | Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton |   | singletonbranxton<br>@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   | 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   |
| <b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>  |   |   |  |
| 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      | <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 11 April 2021

|   | Branxton Saturday 6pm    | Greta Sunday 8am | Singleton Sunday 7am     | Singleton Sunday 10am | Singleton Sunday 6pm                | Counters                                |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Welcomer</b>                             | E Bendeich               | D & J Clarke     | J Walker<br>C Crow       | J Dries               | Janssen Family                      |   |
| <b>Commentator</b>                          |                          | D Clarke         | G Cattermole             | J Patton              | E Janssen                           |   |
| <b>Readers</b>                              | C Trunk<br>C Szumilas    | L Harrison       | J Duldulao<br>H Duldulao | T Cochrane            | H Janssen<br>N Janssen<br>T Janssen |   |
| <b>Prayers</b>                              |                          | D Clarke         | P Boyd                   | F King                | E Janssen                           | 2 Welcomers are required each week.     |
| <b>Offertory</b>                            | N Bendeich<br>E Bendeich | T Ernst          | C O'Connor<br>J Cox      |                       |                                     |   |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> |                          |                  |                          |                       |                                     | 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  |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>5 April</b><br>MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | <b>6 April</b><br>TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER         | <b>7 April</b><br>WEDS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | <b>8 April</b><br>THURS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | <b>9 April</b><br>FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER                                  | <b>10 April</b><br>SAT WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER                                    | <b>11 April</b><br>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY  |
| 8.00am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton          | 5.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton                   | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton        | 5.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton         | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><br>11.00am<br>Mass<br>Elizabeth Gates | 9.00am Novena<br>9.20am Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><br>5.00pm Mass<br>Broke | 7.00am Mass<br>10.00am Mass<br>2.00pm-4.30pm<br>Adoration<br>5.00pm Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton |
|  | 8.50am<br>Rosary<br>9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>Greta |  | 9.20am<br>Mass<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton           |   | 5.30pm<br>Reconciliation<br>6.00pm<br>Mass<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton                 | 7.35am<br>Rosary<br>8.00am<br>Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>Greta   |

**St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – 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!

## Office Hours over Easter

The Parish Office will be closed from 3pm Holy Thursday (1 April) and re-open on Tuesday 13 April at 9am.

## 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 classes will commence in the week of Tuesday 20 April.

**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.

## 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.*



## St Patrick's Parish Raffle

A raffle is being run in St Patrick's Parish Singleton to raise funds for a catcher for the ride-on mower. Tickets are \$2.00 each and available from Julie Dries at Mass. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a \$150 fuel voucher and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a \$75 fuel voucher. Raffle will be drawn on Mother's Day.

## St Patrick's Anniversary First Mass

The First Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 10 April 2021 at 9.20am to remember Joyce Ryan.

## Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant, Singleton.

## Adoration for Divine Mercy Sunday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in St Patrick's Church Singleton on Sunday 11 April from 2-4.30pm for Divine Mercy Sunday.

## St Patrick's Women's Guild AGM

The St Patrick's Women's Guild will hold their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 14 Henry Drive, Singleton.

## Happy Easter from Caritas Australia

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You have responded to St. Oscar Romero's invitation to "Be More," putting your compassion into action to support some of the world's most vulnerable communities. By aspiring to be more, you have helped change lives. **Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2021 Lenten appeal.** Please return your boxes to the churches next week. If you required a tax receipt, please ensure you have completed the details on the flap inside the box.

## St Patrick's Cemetery Queen Street – Plot for Sale

Owners of a plot in the Queen Street Cemetery monumental section are wishing to sell their reservation. If you are interested in a plot in the monumental section next to the school fence, please contact the Parish Office on 02 5507 4048.

## Social Justice Art Workshop

The Social Justice 2020-2021 Statement, **To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today**, provides the opportunity to better understand mental illness and how as social beings we need the bonds of family, friends, and the broader community to celebrate the joys and hopes of life.

Please join us for a day of prayer, reflection and art making at the Parish Office in Cambridge St on Thursday 29 April from 9.30am-2.30pm. \$10 cost covers all art materials used on the day. Participants will need to bring their own lunch on the day. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-justice-art-workshop-tickets-145391039513>

## Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony

The Branxton-Greta Legion of Mary Held the Acies at St Catherine's Church Greta last Sunday. Below is a photo of the inside of the Church where there were around 30 people in attendance. Thank you to all involved for organizing.





## The Lord is Risen, My Dear Friends

and it almost feels like a normal celebration for us for we can already belt out our Easter hallelujahs inside our Churches. Yet, we remain anxious and worried for the challenges that our current circumstances throw at us – the end of the JobKeeper, the pressing unemployment fears, the recent floodings, among others. For us who are foreigners in this land, our hearts palpitate for our loved ones in our homelands who remain vulnerable to the corona virus accentuated by our government's incompetence to help their people and to address the pandemic.

Although, it is Easter, it really feels like we are the women who bought spices to anoint the remains of Jesus' body (see Mk 16:1-8). They feel beaten for they have witnessed their Lord crucified and die on the cross. They witnessed him being laid in the tomb. And, when the sabbath was over, they came to search for the dead while worried on who could roll the stone for them. It is Easter yet we remain worried and anxious for all the disheartening sensations life throws at us.

But Easter reminds us not to worry when we face the daily dramas of our lives. This season reminds us not to look for the dead and be disheartened by the stones that we cannot move in life. The Lord is risen, and he has overcome death. Easter encourages us to face the empty tombs of our lives, our empty pockets and our bleeding hearts with deep and great joy for the Lord is truly risen. Yes, it is Easter. And we are the children of the Easter morning. May our lives witness a life marked by courage and great joy.

Further, this year has been marked by Pope Francis as *Amoris Laetitia* Family. Francis is inviting us to celebrate the beauty and joy of love in the family. I am inviting everyone to discern with our community on how we can promote and walk with families following the *Amoris Laetitia*. Let us, as a community, look for ways on how we can build a community that celebrates beauty and the joy of love. I would deeply appreciate to hear your suggestions and to learn from you.

For the Catholic Communities of Broke, Glendonbrook, Singleton, Branxton and Greta, Fr Anthony, Brother Solomon and I would continue to pray for everyone's safety and well-being. A blessed Easter to all of you!

Fr. Thomas Chirackal, MST  
Parish Priest

## Let's Stay COVID Safe

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.
6. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST**.

