

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

**Third Sunday of Easter - Year B**

**18 April 2021**

**First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19**  
*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7**

**(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **(R.)**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **(R.)**

What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **(R.)**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **(R.)**

**Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5**  
*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God

only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him. The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.**  
**Alleluia!**

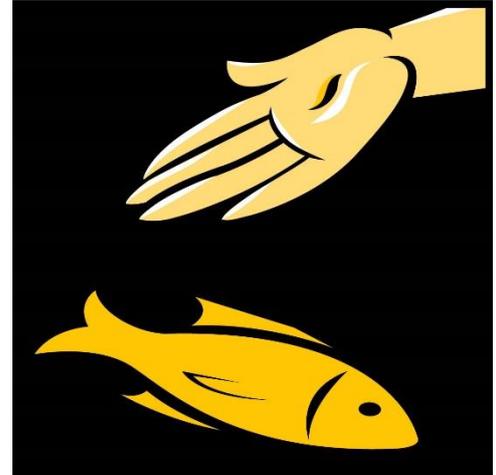
**Gospel Lk 24:35-48**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

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



**REFLECTION**  
**by Fr Michael Tate**

**Ghosts. Meals and Humanity**

*When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.*

*The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).*

*His bodily presence of that sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.*

*In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world.*

*We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity.*

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

# Prayer Requests

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus  
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year B

**1st Reading:** Acts 4:8-12

**2nd Reading:** 1 Jn 3:1-2

**Gospel:** Jn 10:11-18



**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Irene Robinson, 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:** Leo Bendeich, Jim Brady, Maureen Bridge, Patricia Holz, Mark Holz, Pauline O'Gorman, Amos Wilkes, Br Clement. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Lucas Quinn (St Brigid's, Saturday) and Ellis Reakes (St Patrick's, Saturday). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Marriages:** Nicholas Di Maio and Brigitte Falcioni (24 April St Patrick's). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

## 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 25 April 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce	J Dries J Brackenrig	
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	S Thomas		
<b>Readers</b>	P Conroy S Trunk	K Ingold	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	C & A Trunk	P Bridge		M Petrie & Helper		
<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 19 April	Tuesday 20 April	Wednesday 21 April St Anselm	Thursday 22 April	Friday 23 April St George St Adalbert	Saturday 24 April St Fidelis of Sigmaringen	Sunday 25 April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm 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	7.35am Rosary 8.00am Mass St Catherine's 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!

## 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:** The Program classes will commence in the week of **Tuesday 20 April**.

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**.

**SINGLETON PARISH:** An information meeting will be held for new candidates on **Wednesday 21 April at 5.30pm** in St Patrick's Church.

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.

## Mass Cancellations from 26 to 30 April 2021

The Clergy and Parish Leaders of the Diocese are holding the annual Parish Leadership In-service Days and the Parish Leadership/Principals' Day from the 26 to 30 April 2021. These events form part of their mandated on-going professional development as servant-leaders for the Diocese. The regular scheduled masses in Branxton, Greta and Singleton for these dates will be cancelled.

## Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time ended at 3am on Sunday 4 April. Singleton Parish evening Masses have changed to 5pm from **Tuesday 6 April 2021**. This includes Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings and 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 a \$75 fuel voucher. Raffle will be drawn on Mother's Day.

## Project Compassion Boxes

Please return any Project Compassion boxes by Sunday 25 April. If you require 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>

## Tribunal of the Catholic Church

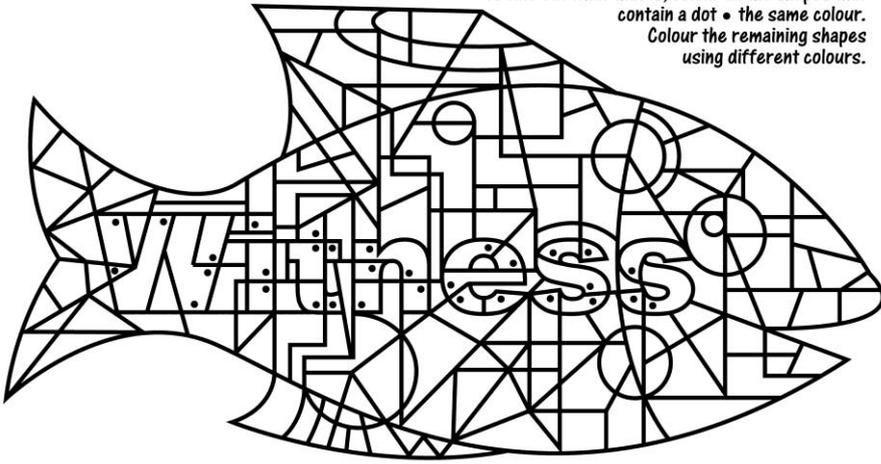
Marriage breakdown is a distressing experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney on 4979 1370 or email [tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au)

## ***Prayer to Our Lady of Mt Carmel***

*Like a child that is ill  
comes to its mother's knee  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel, I come to thee,  
I know you will ease the pain somehow.  
Oh! Place your hand on my troubled brow.  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel, to you I pray,  
Help me, oh Mother, help me today.*

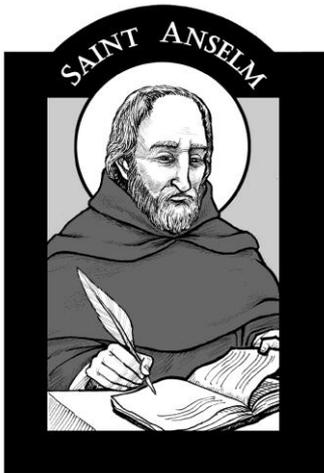
*Author Unknown*

There is something that Jesus asks us to do for him.  
To find out what that is, colour all the shapes that  
contain a dot • the same colour.  
Colour the remaining shapes  
using different colours.



Jesus asked that the Good News be spread  
from Jerusalem to every nation. Unscramble  
the following words about the Good News.

- esJus vases = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_  
 elvo = \_ \_ \_ e  
 doGo sewN = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_  
 gvforie niss = f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_  
 reefdom = \_ r \_ \_ o \_  
 naltree flei = e \_ \_ \_ a \_ \_ f \_  
 gealhin = h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



**St. Anselm** was born in Italy in 1033 and studied in Normandy with Lanfranc, a highly regarded teacher of that time. In his late twenties Anselm became a monk in Lanfranc's monastery and spent his time in prayer, meditation, and study. Many years later he reluctantly succeeded Lanfranc as the Archbishop of Canterbury. This appointment brought him into many conflicts with the English king over the rights of the church and eventually resulted in Anselm's exile in 1097. He was regarded highly as a philosopher and theologian and was considered the most important Christian writer in the time between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Anselm was named a doctor of the church in 1734.

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Post-resurrection accounts

All four gospels include post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus. The gospel of Mark – historically, the first written – gives the briefest account of the resurrection discovery and it is only in a later addition to the gospel that a post-resurrection account appears. However, by the time the gospel of John was written, some 20-30 years later, the theological importance of the resurrection had gained more significance as it became more obvious that Jesus' return to the world was not going to happen within the foreseeable future. The gospel of John devotes two whole chapters to the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Peace be with you

When Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, his first words to them are, "Peace be with you!" His appearance among them obviously agitated the disciples who were already hiding, in fear of their lives and devastated by the loss of their leader days earlier. Jesus' calming and reassuring words, "Peace be with you!" recognise the reality of what state the disciples are in. The words demonstrate that Jesus is meeting the disciples 'where they are' – he recognises their distress and fear and responds with words that accept what they're feeling but reassure them of his love and care. They are words that Jesus speaks to us too!



## Have you thought? Is 'Literal' wrong?

Is there really something intrinsically wrong about a literal interpretation of scripture? Not at all! It is indeed an essential tool of any scriptural interpretation. It is of course important that we first and foremost understand the text as it is written – we have to have a literal understanding of the words that are used and what they mean. The problem arises when this is as far as we go. If we stop at this stage then we are shutting ourselves off from the richness of the scriptures. If we fail to dig below the surface then we are denying ourselves the opportunity of scrutinising our lives in the light of the scripture.

## 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**.

