

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B

ANZAC DAY

25 April 2021

First Reading

Acts 4: 8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **(R.)**

I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Jn 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,

therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed

we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters

the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

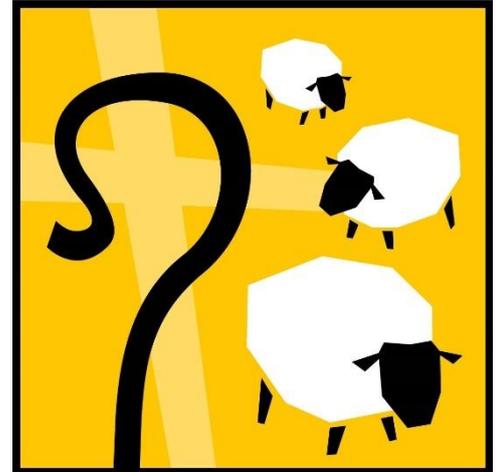
so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been

given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

The Voice

In the regions where Jesus was an itinerant preacher, three or four flocks could be kept in a communal sheepfold for safety. In the morning, the shepherds would come and, as each called out, the sheep attuned to the sound of his voice would follow to life-giving pasture.

We are surrounded by hundreds of voices clamouring for our attention. We are bombarded by messages, social media incessantly chattering. Jesus invites us to get attuned to his voice, listening for the distinctive sound of it so that, even if it is faintly heard in a cacophony, we immediately turn toward it so that we can follow it in a life-giving direction.

How do we get attuned to that voice? By reading the gospels. A Chinese student once told me that the Chinese character for gospel is 'happy sounds'. I like the plural. Jesus' gospel voice is not a monotone but a polyphony sounding in different ways in different situations.

As disciples, we have to get onto the same wavelength as that voice so that we can echo it in our own lives. We become reverberations of Christ's voice in many different situations, helping him to lead others to life-giving pastures.

We could take a moment to pray for better listening so that we might recognise the gospel voice of Jesus Christ, especially at the moment of death. Then we may hear the one voice we need and long for: 'Today you will be with me in paradise.'

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Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year B

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8



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: John Burton, Gordon Fuller, Eddie Goodwin and Darren Searl. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Ross Hatcher (Funeral Tuesday 4 May, 11am St Brigid's Branxton). **May he rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.**

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		singletonbranxton @parish_sb
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 2 May 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	D Jarrett S Wheeler	J Dries	
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers	M Thomas C Szumilus	L Pozywio	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg C Davey J Borg	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	T Wells	K Davey	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Partridge	G Wilton				
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
26 April ST MARK, EVANGELIST	27 April St Louis Grignon de Montfort	28 April St Peter Chanel	29 April St Catherine of Siena	30 April St Plus	1 May St Joseph the Worker	2 May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<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>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
					<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 – 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 Changes 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.

Mass will be said in Singleton at 8am on Monday 26 April and 7am on Tuesday 27 April to Friday 30 April.

The regular scheduled masses in Branxton and Greta for these dates will be cancelled.

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.

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 on 2 May.

First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 1 May 2021 at 9.20am to pray for the souls of *Patricia Holz, Barry Bartrop, Mary Coffey and Ruth Dunn*. All are welcome to attend.

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. 1st prize is a \$150 fuel voucher and 2nd prize a \$75 fuel voucher. Raffle will be drawn on Mother's Day.

2021 Nation Count of Attendance

During the month of May Parishes will be recording the attendance numbers at Mass. This year the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has asked for some extra information including sex and age bracket of attendees.

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

Different View

The Modern-Day Shepherd

Today's audiences can tend to struggle a bit with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. In countries like Australia and the United States, the image of sheep is one of huge flocks of sheep that number in their hundreds and thousands and roam freely over enormous open plains. I guess we also tend to look on sheep as pretty stupid animals that will follow anything anywhere. It doesn't seem to work to put Jesus into this image of vast sheep stations. The idea of a shepherd knowing his sheep individually seems a bit ridiculous in this context.

Introducing Alexander



Hello, my name is Alexander! I am a Pastoral Placement Program (PPP) participant for 2021. I grew up and went to school in Lismore. I was also attended the ACYF with the Maitland-Newcastle group in 2019. My Parish Placement for the year is with the Singleton and Branxton Parishes where I will learn aspects of Parish life including what happens in the Parish Office. I have been helping Erica to produce the Bulletin, updating attendance lists, inputting baptisms in the database and other office tasks.

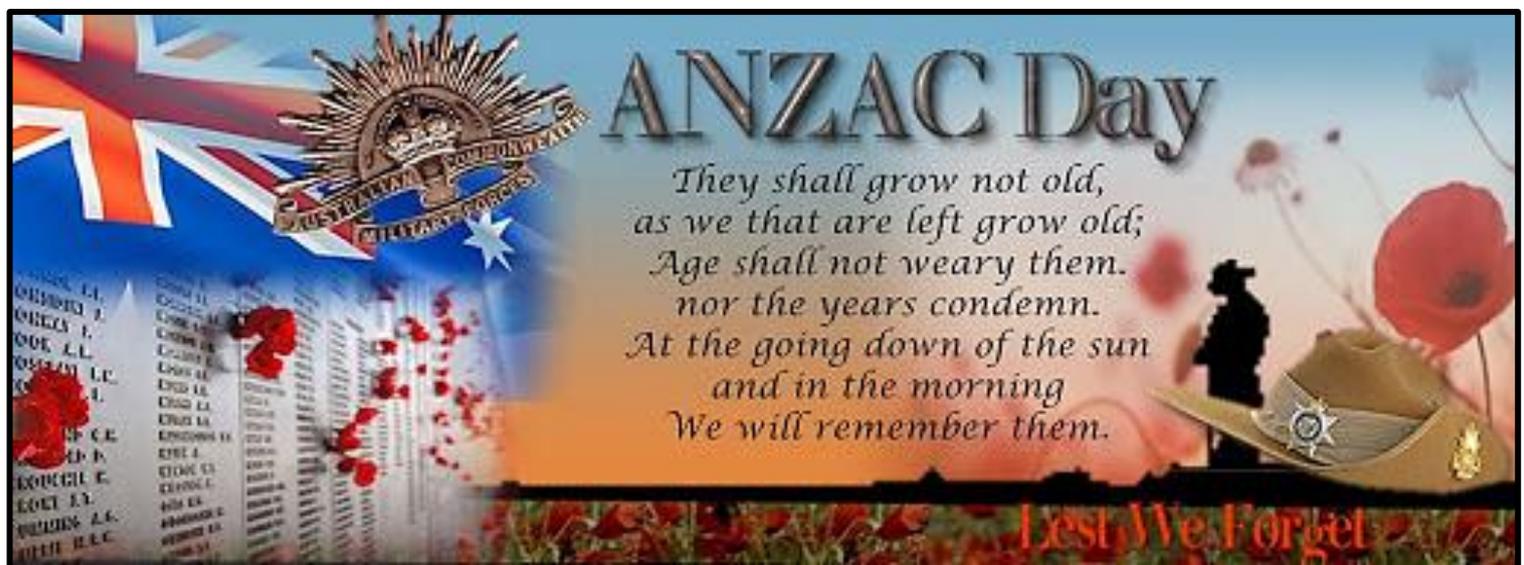
There are currently five Pastoral Placement Participants for 2021. The program involves helping young people to experience a 'on the ground' ministry work placement that allows the participants to explore the opportunities that are available to us to serve God and the local parish community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. It allows us to have a year where we can *learn, see, act*, which enables us to make an informed choice about our possible future ministry.

For more information about the program check out the Diocese website

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>



St. Catherine of Siena was the youngest of 25 children born of a wealthy Italian family in c1347. From a young age she devoted her life to prayer and became a tertiary sister of the Dominican order despite her parents' objections. She worked with the sick and attracted a following of men and women who accompanied her on her frequent journeys. Catherine became heavily involved in the politics of both Church and State as she attempted to make peace between Florence and the papacy. She urged Pope Gregory to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, which he did in 1376. His death two years later led to a schism in the Western church, as detractors of the newly elected pope Urban VI set up a rival pope in Avignon. In an effort to restore unity to the church, Catherine gave support to the Urban VI but was exhausted by her efforts. She died soon after suffering a stroke, aged only 33.



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**.

