

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B

2 May 2021

First Reading **Acts 9:26-31**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! *(R.)*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. *(R.)*

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.' *(R.)*

Second Reading **1 Jn 3:18-24**
A reading from the first letter of St John.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because

God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 15:4-5**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 15:1-8**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

Spiritual Drink

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer - 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' - becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerons desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35.

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 14:23



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: Mark Holz, Graham "Bunya" Zacharko. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Elodie Case (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Marriage: Louis McGuigan and Judith Maccioni (1 May Branxton). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

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
		YouTube	
		Twitter	
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	<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 9 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	J Dries	Janssen Family	
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	J Patton	E Janssen	
Readers	C Murray C Trunk	L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao	T Cochrane	H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	T Ernst				
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 3 May STS PHILIP & JAMES APOSTLES	Tuesday 4 May	Wednesday 5 May	Thursday 6 May	Friday 7 May	Saturday 8 May	Sunday 9 May SIXTH 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 Broke	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	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 11.30am Vietnamese 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!

Changes to Office Hours

The Parish office will be closed on Friday 7 May 2021. It will then be open Monday to Friday 10-14 May 2021. Back to normal hours in the week after.

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.

2021 National Count of Attendance

From this weekend and for 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. We would appreciate your help in providing this information.

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.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From Monday 17 to Sunday 23 May 2021, Australia will celebrate the significant contribution of almost six million volunteers across our nation. This year's National Volunteer Week theme is 'Recognise, Reconnect and Reimagine'. The Diocese and its agencies have more than 6000 volunteers that do amazing work and make a significant contribution every day.

This year the Diocese will host a Volunteer Week Movie Night on Thursday 20 May at 5.30pm in Event Cinemas Kotara to celebrate volunteers and the work they do which ALL volunteers from the Parishes are invited to attend.

The movie "June Again" will be screen and catering will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday 14 May by emailing volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au or calling 02 4979 1384.

St Brigid's Caritas Group Lunch

St. Brigid's Caritas group will meet for lunch on Friday 21 May at 12.00pm in the Royal Federal Hotel, Branxton. We extend an invitation for fellow parishioners to join us on this day. With the threat of COVID-19 we have so few opportunities to meet socially, and it is important that we pray and stay together. Please phone Helen Ralston on 4938 1467 by Friday 14 May if you wish to join us.

We have so much to be thankful for
Mary MacKillop 1842-1909

Message from the family of Alida Ruigrok

Hank Ruigrok and family would like to thank everyone who has sent their condolences on the passing of his wife Alida. Many thanks to each and every one of you who contributed to the Funeral Mass on 9 April 2021 in St Patrick's Church, Singleton.

May God take care of Alida, wife of Hank for 60 years and mother to seven children, 26 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. May Alida, who deserves the very best, now rest in peace.

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

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering



The National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men's Ministry/Parish group or individually. Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection.

Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.

Cost: FREE

Registration: www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

Program: Available from Saturday 31st July 2021.

SYNOD UPDATE:

Now Seeking 'Interested People'

Expression of interest is now open for "Interested People" to attend the second session of Synod. Interested People may be people who wish to be invited because of their interest in the Catholic Church and the work of the synod and/or who are unable to be Synod Members or Synod Participants.

An Interested Person may be present at the Synod Session Two on 22 May. They will have **neither voice nor voting rights** at the Synod. The Synod will be held as a Multi-Modal Model.

There will be six locations:

- Central Hub – Victor Peters Suite and Diocesan Rooms
- Hub 1 – San Clemente High School, Mayfield
- Hub 2 – St Pauls High School, Booragul
- Hub 3 – All Saints College/St Mary's, Maitland
- Hub 4 – St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen
- Hub 5 – St Clare's High School, Taree

If you are interested in attending Synod Session Two on 22 May please complete an **Expression of Interest Form** at www.domnsynod.com.au/get-involved/interested-people to be allocated to a Synod Hub.

Please note: Synod Members, Synod Participants, or Synod delegates do not have to complete this form.

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each **Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm**.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: **pray**

For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au



Can you work out which of these three branches is the one bearing fruit?



**I am the vine,
you are
the branches**



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**.

