

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B

9 May 2021

First Reading

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Jn 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Cornelius, Catholics and Love

A pagan Roman officer was so evidently graced by the Holy Spirit that St Peter realised that the followers of Jesus Christ need not be constrained within the confines of Judaism. This incident, together with St Paul's mission, has helped Christianity spread to every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

'Catholic' simply means 'world wide', and the Church's universal mission is to preach the truth of Christ's victory over death and the true meaning of love: 'No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friend.'

In our experience, this is best exemplified in the desire of a mother or father to substitute themselves for a dying infant or child. Our Lord practised what he preached with incredible intensity. He substituted himself for the whole of humanity dying because of a broken relationship with its Creator. He did so on behalf of us whom he calls friends, those with whom he wishes to share his victory over death.

This is the message entrusted to the members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church to be spread to the people of every tribe and nation.

We could take a moment to pray that we better express our undying gratitude for our status as friends of the Risen Lord, and better do our part as missionary disciples spreading the news of his great love embracing the whole of humanity.

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Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send
you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Mk 16:15-20



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: Mary Coffey, Frederick Dagg, Jeremiah Lynch, Ivan Meyn, Win Nowland, Geof Tope and Ian Tope. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Departed: Villamor 'Bong' Jacinto. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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	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 16 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	J Dries	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	Jen Partridge M Thomas	L Pozywio	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Cochrane T Evans	Gresham Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	S McAlister M Thomas	J Gorkczyca				
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 10 May	Tuesday 11 May	Wednesday 12 May <i>St Nereus & Achilleus St Pancras</i>	Thursday 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	Friday 14 May ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	Saturday 15 May	Sunday 16 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<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>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 – 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 open Monday to Friday 10-14 May 2021. Back to normal hours in the week after.

Changes to Glendonbrook Mass Time

Mass at Glendonbrook on Saturday 22 May will be said at **6pm** instead of 5pm due to our priests attending the Diocesan Synod that day.

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. Welcomers are asked to count all those in attendance at Mass (this may not be the number on the registration sheets if people have checked in with the QR code).

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.

Lent and Easter Special Collections

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Caritas Project Compassion Appeal** during Lent. Totals donated were for Branxton \$619.60 and Singleton \$1174.75.

The **Good Friday Collection** was received by the Holy Land Commissariat and they have sent their thanks for the donations from Branxton of \$413.33 and Singleton \$631.70.

Senior Singles Lunch

The monthly lunch of the Senior Singles Group will be held on Tuesday 11 May at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members are always welcome to join the group for friendly conversation over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The monthly meeting of St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 12 May at 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton. New members are very welcome to come along.

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

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Greta

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea will be held in the Parish Room at St. Catherine's, Greta on Sunday 30 May 2021 commencing at 9.00am (after 8.00am Mass).

This is a fundraiser for Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs. Entry is via a donation at the door. Everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for morning tea. To be COVID Safe you will need to check in using the QR Code. For more information, please contact Joy Clarke on 0439381372.

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.

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. The Aim is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. The cost is FREE. Please register at www.catholicmensgathering.com.au and the program will be available from Saturday 31st July 2021.



Sacramental Program



Welcome to the children and their families who have joined our Parish Sacramental Programs in 2021 to work towards receiving the *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* this year.

Children in the Branxton Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during a liturgy on Friday 14 May at 5.30pm in St Brigid's Church, Branxton.

Children in the program in Singleton Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at their liturgy on Friday 21 May at 5.30pm or 7.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton.

Due to the limits on numbers allowed in our churches, these celebrations are limited to the children and a few loved ones and not open to Parishioners to attend.

Please keep the children in your prayers as they continue this important part of their faith journey. The children will be placing *Pray for Me* cards on the noticeboards, so you may like to choose a particular name/s to pray for each week.

Find your way through the LOVE maze!



Love one another as I have loved you

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**.

