

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

Solemnity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Patron Saint of Diocese

27 June 2021

First Reading

Prov 8:22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

The Wisdom of God cries aloud: The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded, before the oldest of his works. From everlasting I was firmly set, from the beginning, before earth came into being. The deep was not, when I was born, there were no springs to gush with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I came to birth; before he made the earth, the countryside, or the first grains of the world's dust. When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there, when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep, when he thickened the clouds above, when he fixed fast the springs of the deep, when he assigned the sea its boundaries - and the waters will not invade the shore - when he laid down the foundations of the earth, I was by his side, a master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere in his world, delighting to be with the sons of men.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm I Sam 2: 1, 4- 8

(R.) My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

My heart exults in the Lord,
I find my strength in my God;
my mouth laughs at my enemies
as I rejoice in your saving help. **(R.)**

The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the weak are clothed with strength.
Those with plenty must labour for bread,
but the hungry need work no more.
The childless wife has children now
but the fruitful wife bears no more. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives life and death,
he brings men to the grave and back;
it is the Lord who gives poverty and riches.
He brings men low and raises them on high. **(R.)**

He lifts up the lowly from the dust,
from the dunghheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
to give him a glorious throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the apostles went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude, son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed is the Virgin Mary
who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Jn 19:25-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home

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



**PRAYER TO OUR LADY
OF PERPETUAL HELP**

*Most holy and Immaculate
Virgin and our Mother Mary,
you are our Perpetual Help,
our refuge and our hope.*

We come to you today.

*We thank God for all the
graces received through your
intercession.*

*Mother of Perpetual Help, we
promise to love you always
and to do all we can to lead
others to you.*

*Confident of your powerful
influence with God, obtain for
us these graces: the strength
to overcome temptation, a
perfect love for Jesus Christ,
and a holy death so that we
will live with you and your Son
for all eternity.*

Amen

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

There by the cross of Jesus stood his mother,
the sister of his mother, Mary the wife of
Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

As he hung upon the cross, Jesus said to the
disciple whom he loved: Behold your mother.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Evelyn Lopez, Irene Robinson, Anne Standing, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, Jane Winsor O'Keefe, Amelia Verdera Santana, Arlo Spicer, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Herb Banister, Leo Ernst, Philomena Matthews, Ted Meyn, Cheryl Nesbitt, Kevin Nowlan and Carmel Prazasiskas. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Ex 2:2-5

2nd Reading: 2 Cor 12:7-10

Gospel: Mk 6:1-6

**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		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
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 4 July Sunday 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 Pozywio	G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers	S Trunk C Szumilus	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg J Borg	
Prayers		L Pozywio	P Boyd	T Wells		2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	T Ernst	G Cattermole			
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 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
28 June <i>St Irenaeus</i>	29 June <i>STS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES</i>	30 June <i>The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church</i>	1 July	2 July	3 July <i>ST THOMAS, APOSTLE</i>	4 July <i>14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B</i>
<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>9:00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9:45 am</u> Recon 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> Recon <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!

Solomon Okovido's Ordination to Diaconate



The Office of Bishop Bill Wright has announced that the Diaconate Ordination of Solomon Okovido will take place on Saturday 24 July 2021 in Singleton. Details of the celebration are still being finalised and will be communicated to you all as soon as possible.

It is understandable that everyone would love to be a part of Solomon's special day, however, with current restrictions of 1 person per 2m² still in place for *Places of Worship* St Patrick's Church only allows for 160 people to attend. **Those wishing to attend will be asked to register via an online booking system.** Details of this will be communicated within the coming weeks and places will be limited. Bookings WILL NOT be taken by the Parish Office.

Please keep Solomon in your prayers as he prepares for his Ordination.

First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

All are welcome to attend the St Patrick's Parish 1st Anniversary Mass to be held on Saturday 3 July 2021 at 9.20am to pray for the souls of those whose anniversaries occur at this time and especially

- ✠ Joan McNamara
- ✠ Neil McNamara

Support the Parish with Planned Giving Envelopes

By taking a set of Planned Giving envelopes to use for your second collection offerings, you are helping the parish budget for all the costs involved in keeping these healthy and active parishes.

As the First collection is forwarded to the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese to support our priests, the Second collection donations help pay for such Parish costs as pastoral expenses, insurance, electricity, maintenance, staff salaries, renovations, and clergy transport. This program is vital to further our parish development. If you would like a set of envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

Alternatively, it might be easier for you to make your donation via Direct Debit or Credit Card to save remembering cash each week. Please contact the Parish Office for the CDF Electronic Planned Giving form or download from our website and return to the office using this link:

<https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au/news/forms/>

For those who already give via envelopes, your new set for 2021/22 will be in the church from this weekend. As most envelope numbers have changed, please dispose of any 2020/21 envelopes you still have and start with the new set from next weekend 4 July 2021. If you give in an old envelope, it may not be recorded against your name.

St Brigid's Caritas Group

St Brigid's Caritas group are asking for donations to send to Father George in India to assist with the work he does to help the very needy in his parish. If you wish to help, please see Mercia Thomas or Sue McAlister by 5 July 2021 so it can be sent as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already donated.

St Patrick's Church Rosters

Updated Rosters for St Patrick's Church Masses have been placed on the noticeboard. If you wish to **remove or change** your current ministry, please make the change on the sheet. There are some ministries which require volunteers (highlighted in yellow) if you would like to add your name.

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

Office of Safeguarding Training: Safeguarding in Parishes

If you are a paid or unpaid worker of a parish who has not yet attended any Safeguarding training (formerly Child Protection training) or need to update your training this is for you.

2021 Sessions available:

- Tuesday 10 August - Diocesan Offices, Murray Room, Newcastle West, 10am-2pm
- Tuesday 10 August - St James PS Muswellbrook, 10am-2pm
- Saturday 14 August - St James PS Muswellbrook, 10am-2pm

Refreshments will be provided

To register please email HR-Training@mn.catholic.org.au

For information about the course or questions in relation to your participation, or to check on your attendance history, please call the Office of Safeguarding directly on 4979 1390 or email at oosgtraining@mn.catholic.org.au

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP



*The title **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (also known as the **Virgin of the Passion**) came to prominence when in 1866 Pius IX entrusted the icon, then newly discovered, to the Redemptorists. **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, as the patron of our 'Particular Church', is celebrated in our diocese on 27 June.*

Mary's Face: In the picture, our Lady is calm and majestic. Her almond-shaped eyes are set beneath those thin dark eyebrows, her narrow nose, and her pursed lips present her face with beauty and solemnity. Yet her eyes, slightly closed, express ineffable sorrow and sympathy because she sees the suffering her Son will endure, and the suffering of all people in the world.

Her eyes gaze out from the picture toward us, full of pleading. They profoundly penetrate the hearts of everyone who looks at her. She does not look at her Son, but with a sad tenderness seems to be in dialogue with us, her adopted children. It is as if she is expressing compassion for us in our fears and our sorrows. Mary's eyes are large in this icon.

The Colours in Mary's Clothes: Mary's tunic is red, the colour worn by virgins at that time in history. Her mantle is dark blue, the colour worn by mothers in Palestine. These colours were chosen by the artist because Mary is both virgin and mother. In the Byzantine world dark red was reserved for the empress alone. That indicates the Queenship of Mary. Reddish purple was considered the noblest colour in the ancient world (see Daniel 5:7). The colour blue brings to mind the sky and heaven. Red is for martyrdom because all sacrifice requires some type of dying to oneself. The entire background of the icon is golden, also symbolic of heaven where Jesus and Mary are now enthroned. That gold radiates through their clothing, showing the heavenly joy they can bring to hearts.

The Star on Mary's Veil: In the centre of the veil on Mary's head is a star of eight golden, linear rays; next to it is a cross also in the form of a star. The gold of the painting and the figure of the Virgin seem to form the background from which the head of the child emerges. It is as if Mary is the dawn or the start that shows Christ to us. With true motherly love she helps us and guides us. Mary is the star of the sea, who brought the light of Christ into the darkness of this world. As the brightest star in the whole universe, our heavenly Queen constantly pleads our cause before God. She is our advocate because she intercedes for us with her powerful prayers. Like the star that led the Magi to Bethlehem, Mary is the star that leads us safely home to heaven.

Mary's Hands: The largest figure in the icon is Mary, but she is not the focal point of the painting. Rather, the centre of our focus is where the hands of Mother and Son are joined. Her open right hand holds the hands of Jesus, and each of her fingers point toward Him. Mary seems to be pointing out to us that her Son is Jesus Christ, the Son of God who offers His life for us all. The Child, frightened at seeing the instruments of His passion, has thrown Himself into His mother's arms. He clings tightly to Mary's hand, which she has reached out to comfort Him. Mary holds Him in her arms reassuringly, lovingly. Her left hand supports Christ firmly, speaking to us of the security we can find in devotion to the Mother of God. Mary leads us to Jesus, and Jesus can be found close to her.

The Child Jesus: Young Jesus is seated on Mary's left arm. His face expresses great serenity. Within His halo radiates a cross. The child appears like a victim to be offered, much the same as at the Presentation in the Temple (see Luke 2:22-40). His mother's presence reminds us that, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, not collapsed in pain, but strong and valiant (see John 18:25). Mary is like Jesus in many ways. She shares Christ's sorrow – which is also our sorrow and pain – and she makes it her own, transforming it through prayer. Because she is the Mother of Mercy, she is happy to comfort and help us. In fact, she is more anxious to help us than we are to receive her aid.

Resource: Facebook/prayforusmary – www.maryprayforus.org All rights reserved @Redemptorists Denver Province

REMEMBER: Let's Stay COVID Safe

1. If you are sick – stay **HOME** and get tested.
2. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
3. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
4. **SANITISE** your hands.
5. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
6. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.
7. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST**.

