

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Seafarer Sunday

11 July 2021

First Reading

Am 7:12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets.' Amos replied to Amaziah, 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. *(R.)*

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. *(R.)*

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Eph 1:3-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians. (Shorter form)

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.
Before the world was made, he chose us,
chose us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,
determined that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes,
to make us praise the glory of his grace,
his free gift to us in the Beloved in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.
Such is the richness of the grace

which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.
He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,
the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end:
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head,
everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

The Big Picture sets you free

As St Paul would have put it in terms of modern science, before the cosmos was big-banged into existence, before human creatures evolved over the aeons, before you were loved into existence through your parents, God conceived of you, 'God chose you in Christ'.

The universe was erupted into existence by Divine Ecstasy so that creatures might be drawn to evolve into human beings so that you, personally, might enjoy a wonderful destiny.

That destiny is to be an ensouled body totally transfigured by Divine Light, made radiant by Divine Energy, living through love in God's presence.

That is the Big Picture, the 'Very Big Picture'. Grasp that, or rather be grasped by that, and it will enable you to do things you would otherwise not risk doing. One way could be that portrayed in today's Gospel. Jesus could say to his missionary followers: "take no purse, no haversack" because they had an interior freedom from anxiety about the future, a freedom generated from knowing that they had been divinely loved even before time began.

You might take a moment to pray for the courage to make a generous response to the truth spoken directly to you by St Paul. 'Before the world was made, He chose you, chose you in Christ.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Evelyn Lopez, Mick McCrone, Harrison McLachlan, 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: Colin Crow, Clara Thomas. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Edyn Hartcher (Branxton), Addison Butler (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Jer 23:1-6

2nd Reading: Eph 2:13-18

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

**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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish			
Singleton	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 - 18 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	R Gee R James	J Dries	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilas	L Harrison	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	N Bendeich E Bendeich	P Bridge	R & D Nowland			
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 12 July	Tuesday 13 July St Henry	Wednesday 14 July Camillus de Lellis	Thursday 15 July St Bonaventure	Friday 16 July Our Lady of Mt Carmel	Saturday 17 July	Sunday 18 July 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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	7.30am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9.45 am Recon St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass Broke	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 Recon 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!

Update Public Health Order

An updated Public Health Order was issued on 26 June 2021 and is in force until 16 July 2021. This Order restricts gatherings in non-residential premises to 1 person per 4m², restricts singing in places of worship and makes it mandatory for everyone to wear a face mask when inside non-residential premises. Your mask may be removed to receive communion but must be replaced as soon as possible. This reduces the capacity of each of churches as follows:

St Patrick's Church, Singleton	80 people
St Brigid's Church, Branxton	75 people
St Catherine's Church, Greta	45 people

Broke Mass – Change for July 2021

Mass at Broke will be said on 17 July 2021 at 5pm instead of 10 July.

Mass Change for Friday 16 July 2021

Mass in Singleton on 16 July 2021 will be said at 7.30am instead of 9.20am.

Parish Office Hours

Next week the Parish Office will be open on Tuesday 13 July, **closed on Wednesday 14 July** and then open on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 July. Please remember when visiting the Parish Office that you need to check in using the ServiceNSW QR Code and a mask must be worn in the office.

Diaconate Ordination of Solomon Okovido



The Office of Bishop Bill Wright has announced that the Diaconate Ordination of Solomon Okovido will take place on Saturday 24 July 2021 at 10.30am in Singleton.

It is understandable that everyone would love to be a part of Solomon's special day, however, with normal restrictions in place for

Places of Worship St Patrick's Church only allows for 160 people to attend. Those wishing to attend will need to register via Sticky Tickets at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/EPAVV>. If you have issues accessing the internet, please call the office.

Please note that if current restrictions continue after Friday 16 July 2021 numbers will need to be halved. You will be contacted if you are not able to attend.

A collection will be taken up this weekend if you wish to contribute to a gift for Solomon from our Parishes. Baskets will be at the back of the church for the next two weekends.

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

St Patrick's Church – Pressure Cleaning Work

Pressure cleaning work will be taking place to clean the roof and walls of St Patrick's Church, Singleton. This work will be paid for by the Parish. Please be careful when entering the grounds while this work is being undertaken.

Singleton Senior Singles Group

The monthly lunch of the Senior Singles Group will be held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome!

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The monthly meeting of St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. New members always welcome!

Branxton Parish Lunch

After another successful luncheon we will again be gathering on Friday 30 July 12 noon at the Royal Federal Hotel.

All are very welcome and if you decide to join us, please phone Helen 4938 1467 and put your name down.

St Brigid's Caritas Group

St Brigid's Caritas are extremely grateful for the generous donations received for the recent appeal for Father George in India. A cheque has been forwarded to Father George.

'Be eager in your desires but humbly patient in their accomplishments' Mary MacKillop. 1867.

Seafarer's Sunday



Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. Donations can be made to Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this ministry, to donate please go to: <https://aos-australia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>



The **Hope Tree Group** donations have been used to assist Amos Ndaleouye, a needy man from Tanzania, who has HIV/AIDS and is living alone.

His condition has made him very weak and unable to work so he depends on neighbours for food and other needs. He is currently finding it difficult to get food, he was in need of clothing and the roof of his house was leaking. He had asked the Sisters to find someone to help him and they approached Fr Thomas.

With a donation of \$150 from the Hope Tree Group funds, the Sisters were able to assist him by providing pants, shirts, blankets, some food items and the grass needed to repair his roof.



Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October '21

'So they set off to preach repentance'

Mark 6:7-13

Australian Catholics are deeply aware of their own limitations and failings in witnessing to the kingdom of Christ in the world... In many ways, the Church itself is deeply wounded and in need of the healing love of its Lord.

(Instrumentum Laboris #64)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/

Let's Stay COVID Safe

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass – in force until 16 July 2021
2. If you are sick – stay **HOME** and get tested.
3. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
4. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
5. **SANITISE** your hands.
6. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
7. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
8. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.
9. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST**.

