

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

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**18 July 2021**

**First Reading**

**Jer 23:1-6**

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –

when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,

who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved

And Israel dwell in confidence.

And this is the name he will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 22. R. v.2**

*(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. *(R.)*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your  
staff,

with these you give me comfort. *(R.)*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. *(R.)*

Surely goodness and kindness  
shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. *(R.)*

**Second Reading**

**Eph 2:13-18**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.*

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn 10:27**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**My sheep listen to my voice,**

**says the Lord;**

**I know them, and they follow me.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

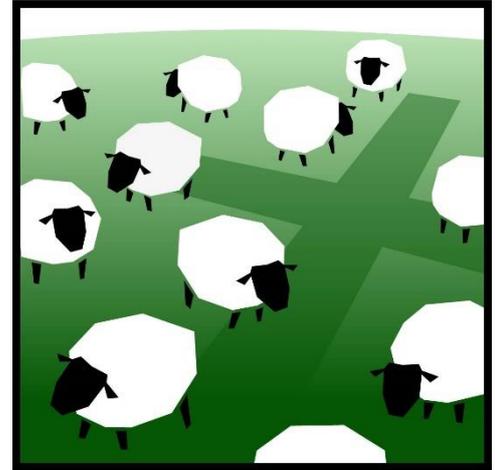
**Mk 6:30-34**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

**Dividing Walls of Enmity**

*In the Temple precinct in Jerusalem there was a stone barrier separating the inner area into which only Jewish people could enter. A non-Jew would cross the barrier under pain of death. This is the 'dividing wall of enmity' to which St Paul refers, and which has been torn down by Jesus Christ in whom a new humanity is being created where discrimination or segregation is to have no place.*

*It is to the great shame of the Catholic Church that it collaborated in putting the Jewish people behind dividing walls of enmity in the ghettos of Europe. It is to the great credit of St John Paul II that much of this enmity was overcome, symbolised when he pressed a prayer into a cleft between stones of the Wailing Wall of the Old Temple.*

*Every week we come to Mass in response to Our Lord's invitation in today's gospel: 'Come away and rest a while.' Our Lord is saying 'Come away by yourselves so that I can nourish you with Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink which is my Holy Communion with you.'*

*Yes, we do that as a moment celebrating our distinctive identity, but always as a prelude to the great task. We are to go out and break down the various 'dividing walls of enmity': racism, caste and class, historical grievances, sexist subjugation.*

*We could take a moment to pray that we imitate St John Paul II in pressing our prayers and actions into whatever opportunities present themselves so as to break down dividing walls of enmity within our families, local communities and even around the world.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**1st Reading:** 2 Kgs 4:42-44

**2nd Reading:** Eph 4:1-6

**Gospel:** Jn 6:1-15



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bishop Bill Wright, 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:** Silvino Diputado, Janice Tierney, Janina Orlowski and Jan Orlowski. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Max Thomas and Emmett Feeney (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**The names of the sick will be cleared at the end of the month. If you wish to have a name remain on the list, please contact the Parish Office.**

**Parish Contacts**

Parish Priest	<b>Fr Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Assistant Priest	<b>Fr Anthony Coloma</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au">anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Secretary	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Patrick's Parish</b>			
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
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Brigid's Parish</b>			
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	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<b>Director: Ms Amy Hunter</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<b>Director: Ms Natalie James</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
<b>Offertory</b>	K Jones K Jones	G Wilton	J Walker H Standing	M Petrie & Helper		
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						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 19 July	Tuesday 20 July St Apollinaris	Wednesday 21 July St Lawrence of Brindisi	Thursday 22 July St Mary Magdalene	Friday 23 July St Brigid	Saturday 24 July St Sharbel Makhluf	Sunday 25 July 17TH 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	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9.45 am Recon St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass Glendonbrook	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 80 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 75 people in St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 45 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 used the QR code to check-in today or have your name, phone number and time of entry on the registration list!**

## **Update Public Health Order**

An updated Public Health Order was issued on 26 June 2021 and is in force until 30 July 2021. This Order restricts gatherings in non-residential premises to 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>, 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.

## **Parish Office Hours**

Next week the Parish Office will be **closed on Wednesday 21 July** while Ausgrid complete work on the electricity supply to the building. 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**

On behalf of Bishop Bill Wright, we regrettably advise of the **postponement** of the Ordination to the Diaconate of Omeiza Solomon Okovido which was scheduled for Saturday 24 July 2021. This is due to the ill-health of Bishop Wright, the ordaining bishop. Once the bishop's medical situation is clearer a new date for the ordination will be advised.

We appreciate how disappointing this is for Solomon, his friends, seminary staff and parishioners who have supported him thus far on his journey to Holy Orders.

We look forward to celebrating Solomon's ordination in the not-too-distant future.

## **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.



## Be COVID safe. Check in everyone, every time.

### **Why check in?**

Contact tracing helps stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Let's help NSW Health contact tracers by checking in wherever we can, so they can get in touch quickly and easily, if necessary.

This business is required to use the NSW Government QR Code to record contact details for all customers.

### **How to check in**

It's easy to check in with the Service NSW COVID Safe Check-in tool.

Start by scanning the NSW Government QR code with your smartphone camera or QR Code reader app and encouraging everyone you're with to do the same.

**> HELP NSW STAY COVID SAFE**



## **Social Justice Art Exhibition - Online**

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.

**You are invited to attend the annual Social Justice Art Exhibition- via zoom on Saturday 17 July from 2pm for presentation and awards.**

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/64306561480>

Password: ART

## **aMeN caMiNo 2022: Information Session**

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

For those interested in finding out about the 2022 aMeN caMiNo experiences, an online Information Session will be held on Saturday 28 August at 2pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amen-camino-information-session-tickets-162230268099>

## **Live Stream Mass**

Live stream Mass 9.30am every Sunday from Sacred Heart Cathedral: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>



## I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

[www.catholic.org.au/grandparents](http://www.catholic.org.au/grandparents)  
#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS

WORLD DAY  
FOR  
GRANDPARENTS  
AND THE  
ELDERLY

Next Sunday, 25 July 2021, we will celebrate the first **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**.

This first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is being celebrated midway through the year dedicated to family by the Holy Father on the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. This is a deliberate choice that stems from awareness of how the elderly – all the elderly, including those who are not grandparents – need a family environment in which to live, and also how it is necessary for families to become aware of the role being played by their older members.

There are many pastoral tools that can give concrete expression to our pastoral concern for older people. Among the many ways in which local churches and individuals can be close to older people, there is one which is easy to implement and highly effective, and that is to visit them and to give them the Holy Father's message. It is a tangible sign of a Church which goes forth. To pay a visit is a way, rooted in tradition, of showing compassion, including towards those who are ill or in prison. Today it seems that we need to add to the well-known list of the seven works of mercy, the 'work' of visiting the elderly who are alone.

We hope that as many of our Grandparents and Elderly can join the celebration at Mass next weekend. For those who are planning to visit someone **The Prayer for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** will be published in the bulletin next week for you to take with you and pray with them.

## Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

***'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'***

*Mark 6:30-34*

Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and to wait... We wait for the rain to fill our rivers and water the thirsty earth... We wait on God, too. We don't worry. We know that in time and in the spirit of *dadirri* (that deep listening and quiet stillness) his way will be clear.

(Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, "Dadirri: Inner Deep Listening and Quiet Still Awareness", Miriam-Roes Foundation, accessed 23 April 2021, <https://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au/about-dadirri/>.)

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/)

## Let's Stay COVID Safe

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass – in force until 30 July 2021. Can be removed to receive communion.
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** and maintain 1.5m physical distancing.

