

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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Mary Of The Cross, Virgin

8 August 2021

First Reading **1 Kgs 17:7-16**
A reading from the book of Kings.

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please,' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself, and her son. The jar of meal was not spent, nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 62:1-8**
*(R.) My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. *(R.)*

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. *(R.)*

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. *(R.)*

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Col 3:12-17**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and

humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 27:55**

Alleluia, alleluia!
*Many women were there by the cross,
watching from a distance,
the same women who had followed Jesus
and looked after him.*
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 6:25-34**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear.

Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are?

Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing?

Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith?

So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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



REFLECTION **by Fr Michael Tate**

Mary MacKillop

This Gospel does not say we should not worry about what others eat or drink or have to wear. In fact we will be judged on whether we gave 'the Least' food, shelter, companionship in illness or in prison (Mt 25).

In the mid-late 19th century, a young woman was very concerned with the plight of the poor and the marginalised in the colonies which later became the Commonwealth of Australia. Amongst the most obvious necessities of life for these 'least' was schooling of the young, as education is a proven path out of poverty.

So, this woman, whose most famous saying was 'never see a need without trying to do something about it', set about remedying that situation. Mary MacKillop established the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart principally to educate the poor.

She suffered excommunication for revealing sexual abuse of youngsters by a paedophile priest. That was reversed five months later, but this all took its toll on her fragile health.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we may join St Mary of the Cross in Heaven, together with all the Josephite sisters who set their hearts on the Father's kingdom and His saving justice.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord: I was sick and you visited me. Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year B

1st Reading: Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-26

Gospel: Lk 1:39-56



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bishop Bill Wright, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Conchita Ekin, Austin Hoffman, Blake Lloyd, Mick McCrone, Anne Standing, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Recently Deceased: Brian Hebbe. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Anniversaries: Wolfgang Alsleben, Ronald Briley, Cheryl Klasen, Terry Clarke, Joshep, Anna & Lucia, Vincent & Theresa. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

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 - SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 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		
Commentator		L Goczyca	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	C Murray C Trunk	L Goczyca	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evens T Cochrane	L Gresham	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9 August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	10 August ST LAWRENCE	11 August St Clare	12 August St Jane Frances de Chantal	13 August St Pontian & Hippolytus	14 August St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	15 August THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
NO MASS WILL BE SAID STAY AT HOME ORDER				9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9.45 am Recon St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
					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.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles group will NOT be meeting this week due to the current COVID restrictions.

St Patrick's Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will NOT be holding their monthly meeting due to the current COVID restrictions.

St Brigid's Parish Lunch

The Parish Luncheon was again well represented and will (at this stage) be held again on Friday 20 August 2021 in the Royal Federal Hotel at 12 noon. All are welcome and if you are coming for the first time, please phone Helen on 49381467. Regulars have their name down already.



**STAY AT HOME
ORDER**



**NEWCASTLE
LAKE MACQUARIE
SINGLETON
MUSWELLBROOK
MAITLAND
PORT STEPHENS
CESSNOCK
DUNGOG**

5 August 2021
www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19



To protect the people of NSW from the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, new restrictions will be introduced for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens, Singleton, Dungog, Muswellbrook and Cessnock from 5pm Thursday 5 August until 12.01am Friday 13 August 2021.

This means that places of public worship are CLOSED, and Mass will not be said during this time. Please stay safe, stay home and follow the orders to keep our community safe.

Unfortunately, the Confirmation and Holy Communion Masses set for Branxton Parish this weekend will be postponed.

Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral at www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton/videos

Prayer resources for the Feast of St Mary of the Cross can be found at <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Praying-with-St-Mary-MacKillop.pdf>



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop is not only the first Australian to be recognised by the Church as a Saint, she is truly a very Australian saint. She characterises the spirit of the Australian mythology. She was a prodigious hard worker who put the needs of others before herself. She exhibited something of the larrikin spirit: constantly in dispute with authority but pressing on, regardless. She used the strengths of others but also didn't tolerate those who were not genuine. Her commitment to the schooling of children from poor and rural communities established a model of Catholic education that continues to today. A Saint for and of Australia!

St Brigid's Caritas

St. Brigid's Caritas was formed in May 1993 with the aim of bringing the community closer together through recreational facilities and activities designed to meet the needs of all members of the parish. Many parishioners rallied and soon ideas were coming to fruition.

Funds were raised through cake stalls; debutante balls; revues; parish luncheons; bus trips; Christmas in July; Melbourne Cup luncheons; games evenings; bingo; Christmas raffles and since 1998 an annual pilgrimage to MacKillop Place in Turramurra.

Funds raised were placed in a Catholic Development Fund term deposit account with the aim of establishing aged care facilities in Branxton and if this was not possible the money would be used to help aged care facilities in our area.

With these funds, the group have contributed to the building of the Columbarium in Branxton Cemetery and supplied soft furnishings in St. Brigid's church.

Over time many of the original members have died and others have stood aside with health issues but there remains strong support from past and present members who have expressed the desire to see the funds finally go to worthy recipients. We are happy to advise, after consultation with Father Thomas, that as of the 1st August generous donations have gone to Mercy Services Aged Care in Singleton, Elizabeth Gates Aged Care in Singleton and the Parish's Hope Tree Project.

With pride St Brigid's Caritas will continue to support the good work in the parish and wider community.

"Never see a need without doing something about it"
Mary MacKillop



Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

***'Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness,
and all these other things will be given you as well'***

Matthew 6:25-34

The Church signifies and builds up the shared life of God's kingdom. This calls all members of the Church to continual conversion from self-serving egoism to self-giving love and a willingness to "bear each other's burdens" (Gal 6:2).

(Instrumentum Laboris #83)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

Let's Stay COVID Safe While at Mass

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass. 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.

