

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

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 August 2021

First Reading Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

(R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. **(R.)**

So will the king desire your beauty:

He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;

they pass within the palace of the king. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:20-26
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands

over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-56
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name,

and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm,

he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –

of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Gift of Resurrection Life

A mother carries her child in her womb, giving that child a share in her own life. What if a child were able to share its life with its mother? This is what we believe happened between our Risen Lord and his mother, Mary.

It is our faith that our Lord nourishes Mary with His Resurrection life, meaning that her body soul, her total humanity, is suffused with His Divine glory.

She grace-fully made the transition from earthly to heavenly existence without the wrenching apart of body and soul which we may expect. This is what we mean by 'The Assumption'.

This has been believed and celebrated since the early centuries of the church. Why was it only proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950? I think because in the first half of the 20th century tens of millions were killed in wars, death camps and in the Russian and China Communist dictatorships.

The Holy Spirit needed to remind the world that human beings are body souls made for transfiguration, not disfiguration by starvation, torture, massacre, and disposal like animal carcasses.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we may share in the gift of transfigured bodies at the end of history.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

A great sign appeared in heaven:
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon
beneath her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things
for me.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Jos 24:1-2. 15-18

2nd Reading: Eph 5:21-32

Gospel: Jn 6:60-69



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: George Cattermole. **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)			
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 22 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	P & L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
Commentator		L Goczycza	G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
Readers	J Partridge S Stafa	L Goczycza	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	S McAlister M Thomas	P Bridge	J Walker H Standing	M Petrie & Helper		
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
16 August <i>St Stephen of Hungary</i>	17 August	18 August	19 August <i>St John Eudes</i>	20 August <i>St Bernard</i>	21 August <i>St Pius X</i>	22 August 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
NO MASS WILL BE SAID STAY AT HOME ORDER				9.20am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9:45 am Recon <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> 5.00pm Mass <i>Glendonbrook</i>	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
					5:30pm Recon 6.00pm Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	7.35am Rosary 8.00am Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

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.



National Day of Prayer – The Church Together

On Sunday 22 August, Australia's Churches are invited to pray for our local, national and global communities experiencing great need and distress caused by COVID-19.

This is an initiative of a broad range of Christian communities and includes the involvement of the National Council of Churches Australia. The theme is Lord have mercy; and it calls on us to be especially united in prayer, both individually and, where we are able, in our liturgies.

There will also be an online gathering, with church leaders offering prayers and reflections at various times during the day. We know very well the suffering that the current situation has brought to our community: both for those who have been infected by the virus and for their families, as well as those whose psychological and economic well-being has been disrupted. We also look beyond our shores to the devastation in other countries, who lack the resources we have.

How to get involved

We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities:

1. Every day from Monday 16 – Sunday 22 August 2021, a Daily Devotion will be sent out to those who register. Each Daily Devotion will include a prayer from a different Church leader.
2. Every night from 8PM AEST, Monday 16 – Sunday 22 August 2021, a nightly Prayer Call will take place with input from a different church leader each night.
3. On Sunday 22 August 2021 from 9AM – 9PM, the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team will host a Zoom Prayer call featuring Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Come for a short while or come for a long while. Let us join in prayer for our nation.

To register for these events, visit:

<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

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 20 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.

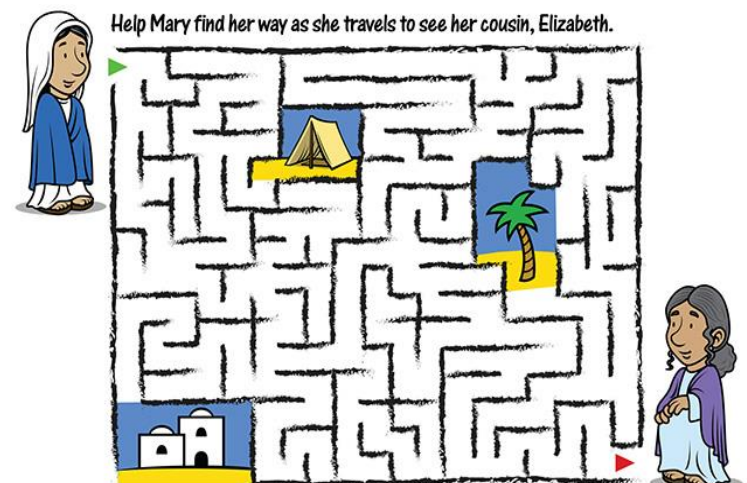
Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am. Use this link to access.

www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton/videos



St Brigid's Parish Lunch

The Parish Luncheon which was to be held again on Friday 20 August 2021 in the Royal Federal Hotel at 12 noon has been cancelled due to the current COVID-19 Restrictions. Watch this space for a new date.



LIVING THE GOSPEL

Saying "Yes"

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say "Yes" to life itself and all it offers. To say "Yes" to life is to say "Yes" to life-giving relationships and decisions and "No" to life denying relationships and decisions. To say "Yes" to life is to say "No" to those things that harm self and harm others. A "Yes" to life is a "Yes" to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.



*With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Saviour.
He cares for me, his humble servant.
All people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.*



Mary was assumed into heaven.
Colour the picture of Mary.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Feast of the Assumption

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

New life

The restoration of life to those who are shamed and oppressed that is exemplified in Elizabeth is a compelling theme of the gospel of Luke. Time and again, those who are ground down by a lack of life are given new hope and new life by the extravagant love of God. And throughout Luke, the recipients of this new life are women. The widow of Nain (7:11-15); the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (7:36-50); the woman with a haemorrhage (8:43-48); Jairus' daughter (8:40-56); and the crippled woman (13:10-17) are all examples of this outpouring of new life.

Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

'His mercy reaches from age to age'

Luke 1:39-56

God is asking us to refrain from putting barriers and obstacles in the way of God's mercy reaching the least, the lost and those who feel excluded, especially those who do not yet know the love of God. God is asking us to be a Church that walks together and does not leave anyone behind.

(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper p. 6)



Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

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

Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

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.

