

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

22 August 2021

First Reading **Jos 24:1-2. 15-18**
A reading from the book of the Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R.)**

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Eph 5:21-32**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should

love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Jn 6:63. 68**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 6:60-69**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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

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REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

The Word of Eternal Life

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence.

There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life.

But our ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy.

The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries. Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

That is why when I hear the challenge: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

We could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a 'Dead Man Walking', but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

2nd Reading: Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Gospel: Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23



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.**

Anniversaries: Mary Brodbeck and Mary Ellen Holz. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Marjorie Holz and Mandy Newman. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	<i>Fr Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	<i>Fr Anthony Coloma</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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	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	<i>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<i>Director: Ms Amy Hunter</i>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<i>Director: Ms Natalie James</i>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer	L Sneesby Tooth	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	J Dries	Janssen Family	
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	M Dagg	E Janssen	
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilus	D Clarke	P Boyd	B Drayton R Gee	H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	S Bates		E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	N Bendeich E Bendeich	T Ernst	M Jones H Ruigrok			
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
23 August <i>St Rose of Lima</i>	24 August SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	25 August <i>St Louis</i> <i>St Joseph Calasanz</i>	26 August	27 August <i>St Monica</i>	28 August <i>St Augustine</i>	29 August 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
NO MASS WILL BE SAID STAY AT HOME ORDER					9:00am Novena 9:20am Mass 9:45 am Recon <i>St Patrick's Singleton</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.

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 Saturday 28 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.

You are invited to join Mass from St Patrick's Church, Singleton on our Parish Facebook page [SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish](#) and the Parish Website <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au> at 7.30am on Sunday mornings.

You can also join Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sundays at 9.30am on the Diocese YouTube page which you can link from their website (<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>).



National Day of Prayer – The Church Together

This 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

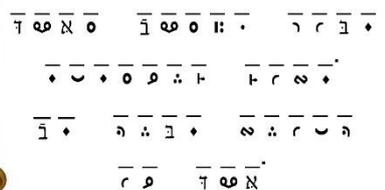
We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities:

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/>

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.



**LORD,
YOUR WORDS GIVE
EVERLASTING LIFE.**

Light a candle for Afghanistan

Join us in prayerful silence for Afghanistan

Thursday, 19 August at 6pm

Light a candle in the darkness for the women and girls in Afghanistan - a light in the dark for what may lay ahead for them.

For centuries, families have lit candles in their windows to show travellers the way home. This act demonstrated that there was still hope, as small as it might be when all seemed lost.

Friday, 20 August at 6pm

Light a candle for those veterans among us who might be feeling that their service there, and the sacrifices that were made, were for nothing.

The light will symbolise that nothing we do for others, freedom or peace, is ever wasted.

Saturday, 21 August at 6pm

Light a candle for all the Christians and people of other faiths in Afghanistan, who will now be in dire circumstances as the militants sweep through.

If you wish take a photo of your candle and share it with us, it's the solidarity in prayer that matters.

You can email your photo to parish.boolaroo@mn.catholic.org.au

Thank you to Fr Greg Barker who came up with this idea to turn his despair into a sign of hope.





Hope Tree
Group

Project & Report

URINE ANALYSER MACHINE FOR CONGREGATION OF FRANCISCAN SISTERS' HEALTH CENTRE IN MBAGALA, TANZANIA

The Franciscan Sisters of the Reign of Jesus Christ in Mbagla, Tanzania identified a need to establish a private health care centre in their region for those who couldn't afford to travel to Dar es Salaam or who were unable to be seen at the government health centres which are overwhelmed with patients. This is a rural area with the population coming from a lot of different villages.

The increase in various contagious and non-contagious diseases has become the number one cause of deaths in the area, caused mostly by the lack of available medical care. This lack of medical care has existed for some time and as a result the Sisters established the Saint Clara Health Centre. This centre is currently focussing on a program called 'Mother and Child'. The families who are not able to be seen in the government centre were coming to the Sisters clinic and, as they were not able to pay, they were receiving their treatment for free. This has, in turn, put a strain on the available funds of the centre.

With limited funds the Sisters were not able to purchase equipment to strengthen the services provided by the laboratory on site. Fr Thomas received a request for the Hope Tree Group to assist with **1,531,000.00 Tshs** (or approximately AUD \$900) to purchase a Urine Analyser machine and associated equipment. This money was transferred to them from the Hope Tree Group account on 29 July 2021.

The staff have started using the equipment and are very grateful to the Parishes of Branxton and Singleton for their donation. Special mention to the Branxton Caritas group for their donation of \$4000 to Hope Tree Group.



The Sisters receiving the machine



Opening the machine in the laboratory



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

Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

'The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

John 6:60-69

Through appropriate faith formation, God can shape us into deepening our spirituality within the life of the Church, engaging with scripture, encountering God in worship and prayerfully developing our living relationship with Jesus Christ.

(Prayerful and Eucharistic – Discernment Paper p. 5)

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.

