

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Social Justice Sunday

29 August 2021

First Reading

Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of the Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
A reading from the letter of St James.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Holiness: Contagion not Quarantine

Many religious leaders have thought that some foods or some people are such a threat to the holiness of their followers that contact with 'unclean', 'defiling' foods or people must be avoided. Our Lord was totally opposed to the idea that holiness was something secured or gained by being quarantined or separated from any-thing or any-person.

On the contrary, he could touch a leper or have a meal with a prostitute. Rather than defilement flowing from the leper or prostitute to Jesus, his life flowed into them repairing their broken humanity, healing them body mind spirit, holistically, making them holy.

The fact is that God, embodied in Jesus Christ, is contagious. The contagion of Divine Life is meant to flow into the inner depths of personality, into the heart. When this occurs, the Divine Life in the human person causes 'holiness'.

We have to strive to put ourselves in the way of this contagion. We become holy when we allow ourselves to be touched by our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we do this?

By hearing of His life in the Gospel, by being nourished by His life in Holy Communion, by being touched by the plight of those in whom He is to be found. St James in the second reading describes some who are particularly vulnerable in a patriarchal society with no social security system: the widows and orphans. No doubt, we can identify equivalent groups in our own society and overseas.

We could take a moment to pray that we might be more conscious of the Holy Spirit germinating something in our hearts, making us holy from the inside out, that our holiness be authenticated by good works so that we may be holy as the Lord our God is holy.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Bishop Bill Wright, Helen Boza, 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: Agnes Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Is 35:4-7

2nd Reading: Jas 2:1-5

Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

**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
St Patrick's Parish 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
St Brigid's Parish 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	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 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer						
Commentator						
Readers						
Prayers						2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory						
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
30 August	31 August	1 September	2 September	3 September St Gregory the Great	4 September	5 September 23 rd Sunday in Ord Time, Year B
NO MASS WILL BE SAID						
STAY AT HOME ORDER IN PLACE						

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.

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR OUR PARISHES

From 5pm Thursday 5 August until 11.59pm Friday 10 September 2021 places of public worship are **CLOSED**. This means that Mass will not be said during this time to protect the people of NSW from the evolving COVID-19 outbreak. Please stay safe, stay home and follow the orders to keep our community safe and we look forward to sharing public Mass again with you soon.

Due to the Orders being extended, Fr Thomas and the Singleton Parish Sacramental team have had to postpone the Confirmation and Holy Communion Masses planned for 10 and 11 September. Families will be kept informed when new dates are set.

You are invited to join Mass from St Patrick's Church, Singleton on our Parish Facebook page [SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish](https://www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish) and the Parish Website <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au> from 7.00am on Sunday mornings during lockdown.

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/>).

Synod Session Three Postponed

Session Three of the Synod, originally planned for 20 November 2021, has been postponed. This decision was taken after consultation with the Synod Working Party, the Council of Priests, and the Council for Mission.

In preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council our Diocesan Plenary Council members Bernadette Gibson, Fr Andrew Doohan VG, and Helen Belcher are seeking input from our diocesan community.

You are invited to join them for a series of conversations around the Plenary Council agenda and its associated questions, and guided by the Holy Spirit, so they can hear from as many people as possible. Plenary Conversations will be over a number of weeks each Thursday from 26 August to 30 September between 7.00pm and 8.30pm via Zoom.

To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819>

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Mission Conference – One Heart, Many Voices



Every two years Catholic Mission, in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, hosts the Mission: one heart many voices conference. This year the conference is completely online and provides participants the opportunity to experience a diverse range of international and local speakers with broad lived and practical experience in their respective field.

This MOHNV conference will encourage participants to explore 'Leadership for Mission Now' through the frame of an open mind, open heart and open will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage.

The conference takes place Wednesday 1 September to Friday 3 September with an additional day of creativity and dialogue designed by young people Saturday 4 September.

For more details and to register please go to <https://2021.mohmv.com.au>

This time calls the Church to lead 'into the world' recognising the places of transformation the Spirit is calling us to. "It is God's dream that our world would be healed, that it would be full of peace and joy. Anyone who promotes love, peace and joy is sharing in the mission of Jesus." (Columban Priest Trevor Trotter). Responding to this dream, Leadership for Mission Now explores approaches to engage, lead and co-create with those Pope Francis refers to as 'people of good will'.



EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO

National Child Protection Week invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. This year, National Child Protection Week (NCPW) occurs across Australia from 5-11 September. This is the 31st year celebration with the theme:

Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.

*To treat all of Australia's children fairly,
we need to make sure every family and community
has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.*

With the crisis of Covid-19, National Child Protection Week will be a little different this year. However, while there will likely be fewer events, the campaign will definitely still go ahead. The added pressure on families and communities means that now – more than ever – we all need to play our part in protecting all children.

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children. The Office of Safeguarding is the structural expression of the Diocese's commitment to demonstrate the highest standards of recognising and upholding the dignity and rights of all children. They have several resources available for children of different ages and for the broader community. To find out more visit their website <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/national-child-protection-week/>



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2021-22

CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR



Social Justice Sunday, 29 August 2021 Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

In their Social Justice Statement for 2021-22, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, the Australian Catholic Bishops say, “the signs of the times are clear - we know that we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour”. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

The Bishops invite us to join them in responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to take a seven year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. The Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.

Scripture, the theological tradition, Catholic social justice teaching, and the wisdom of the world - including insights of the First Nations - are all placed in dialogue with human experience. Four theological foundations for a genuinely Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor emerge from this dialogue. They are: creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. Catholic families, communities and organisations are encouraged to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered by the Bishops; and, plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si’ Goals.

For more information and to read the whole report visit www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



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

Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

‘This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.’

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Unless we train ministers capable of warming people’s hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey?

(Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/

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.

