

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

**Perpetual Day of Remembrance**

**12 September 2021**

**First Reading**

**Ez 37:1-14**

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.'" He said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3**

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God**

Like the deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you, my God. **(R.)**

My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God? **(R.)**

O send forth your light and your truth;

let these be my guide.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain  
to the place where you dwell. **(R.)**

And I will come to the altar of God,  
the God of my joy.

My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,  
O God, my God. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Rom 14:7-9**

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

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Phil 2:15-16**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Shine in the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

**Lk 1:46-56**

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

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.**



**ODE TO THE  
LIGHT OF CHRIST**  
By Fiona Duque

Come, let us walk in the Light of the  
Lord.

Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.  
*(Is. 2:5)*

Come, let us bring light from the  
darkness.

Let us make evil good  
and find sweet in the bitter.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.  
*(Is. 5:20)*

Come, let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the  
clouds,

from the darkness and distress.  
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.  
*(Is. 5:30)*

Come, let us walk with our brothers  
and sisters,

those who have walked in darkness.  
Let them see the great Light of God  
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.  
*(Is. 9:2)*

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

# Prayer Requests

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Sick:** Bishop Bill Wright, Helen Boza, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Conchita Ekin, Leanne Hardy, 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:** Rex Anderson, John Archinal, Harry Dunn, Dot Spencer. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**1st Reading:** Wis 2:12, 17-20

**2nd Reading:** Jas 3:16-4:3

**Gospel:** Mk 9:30-37



## 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>			
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
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</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 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer						2 Welcomers are required each week.  NO Ministers of Communion are required.
Commentator						
Readers						
Prayers						
Offertory						
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						

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
<b>13 September</b> <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	<b>14 September</b> <b>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	<b>15 September</b> <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<b>16 September</b> <i>St Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>	<b>17 September</b> <i>St Robert Bellarmine</i>	<b>18 September</b>	<b>19 September</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
	7.00am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> Available online					7.00am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> Available online

**NO PUBLIC MASS WILL BE SAID**

**STAY AT HOME ORDERS 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.

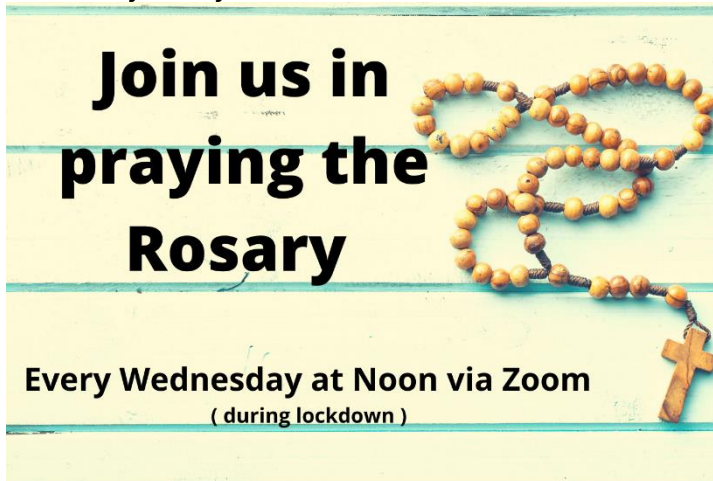
## **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR OUR PARISHES**

As of Thursday 9 September 2021, the LGAs that our Parishes fall in are still subject to the stay-at-home orders and as such, places of worship will remain **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.

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. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for notification of Mass for Feast days.

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/>

## **Wednesday Rosary on Zoom**



You are invited to Pray the Rosary each Wednesday at noon each week during lockdown via Zoom. Please use these details  
Zoom Meeting ID: **64126789062**  
Password – **Rosary**

## **Australia Needs Fatima – Public Rosary**

The Public Rosary will be held on Saturday 16 October 2021 at St Catherine's Greta from 10.00am, if the public health order restrictions allow. This Rosary will be to ask God's blessing on our country and an end to the Covid-19 virus. If the restrictions prevent a public gathering on this day, then maybe you could encourage those around you to say the Rosary with you in your front yards. If you hold a Rosary like this, please let Darryl know on 0418662672 so that he can pass on details to the Australia Needs Fatima organization.

## **Perpetual Day of Remembrance – Shine the Light of Christ**

In 2020 Bishop Bill decreed that a Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday, a feast day, was to be inscribed into the Diocesan Liturgical Calendar, to be held on the Sunday on or prior to 15 September. In this decree he said:

*'In light of the dreadful history of sexual abuse of children by clergy and other people working for this diocese, we have undertaken all available measures to ensure the safety of children in our community today. We have also tried to meet the needs of survivors of abuse for support and redress, while acknowledging that their on-going suffering cannot be healed by measures of financial redress or any other one-off measure or assistance alone. Among the needs expressed to me by survivors of abuse, there is also the need for the Catholic community to fully acknowledge the crimes and failures of the past, in public ways, and to ensure that neither those who suffered nor the crimes themselves are ever allowed to fade from memory.*

*Though it is not on the same level as the pain of those who were abused, there is also much hurt in the wider community. Many people can't get over being deceived and betrayed by individuals whom they took for good priests or religious, teachers or fellow parishioners. We have all to some extent lost our innocence. It is important for all of us, then, that we do not try to deny or suppress those hurts, but bring them into the realms of faith and prayer, both as a means of community healing and as a stimulus to greater care for the survivors among us and for the generations of children yet to come.'*

This Sunday is the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. Resources to use at home are available on the Diocese website [https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4753/perpetual-day-of-remembrance-resources\\_individuals-household\\_2021-final.pdf](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4753/perpetual-day-of-remembrance-resources_individuals-household_2021-final.pdf)

## **Commission to Shine the Light of Christ**

*To be said before the final blessing*

Presider: Let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)**

Presider: Let us bring light from the darkness.

Let us make evil good  
and find sweet in the bitter.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)**

Presider: Let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the  
clouds,

from the darkness and distress.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)**

Presider: Let us walk with our brothers and sisters,  
those who have walked in darkness.  
Let them see the great Light of God.

**All: And let us Shine the Light of Christ.  
(Is. 9:2)**

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## Plenary Conversations Report Week Two: Formation

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

Peter Conroy will attend the Plenary Conversations being held over the next few weeks in preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council and share his comments and observations with us.

Context for the evening was given by reading Luke 8: 4 to 15, the parable of the Sower, spreading seeds and noting that those seeds fell on different types of ground.

When we talk of formation programs, developing skill sets and enabling the person or group that is being formed to move forward in their Christian journey, it is easy to fall into what we could call the 'medical model'. The doctor, the leader of the formation program, gives us a course of medicine - the program - and we become better people. However, by starting with the Sower parable, we gain a different understanding to the one that the medical model offers. Questions about the type of program, the leadership of the program and the ways that the program should be delivered, all come into focus.

It was agreed that a successful program must begin by acknowledging that we need to address our "human-ness" first. Where are we in our lives, are we open to change, are we at peace with ourselves and others, can we acknowledge our weaknesses, and both identify and want to change? Only after we reflect openly and honestly about ourselves can we engage fully and constructively in formation. Then, having reflected on ourselves, we consider the Sower parable and develop an appreciation that there are many external factors (where the seeds fall in the parable) that also impact on our formation. We correct ourselves before considering external issues. It is important to note that these factors exist and do retard our formation but they do not prevent it; it will always be our decision as to the extent to which we engage and develop. Unlike the seed that did not have a choice where it fell, we do have the capacity to change, to look for alternatives and to choose to avoid being 'led into temptation'.

Formation, both from the perspective of the facilitator and from that of the participant, needs to engage Head, Heart and Hand. Formation needs to challenge our thinking, encourage us to consider better ways and reward our imagination and creativity in renewing our lives. It then needs to reach past our thoughts and engage our emotions. We need to become passionate about our new directions to the point that we will look past any external inhibitors and have a determination that comes from our own fervent belief not just from the thoughts of someone else who is trying to convince us of what is important.

Finally, we need to be prepared to do something, get our hands dirty as the saying goes. Be an active member of our community and become part of the missionary work that we are called to undertake every time that we attend mass or signify our Christianity.



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

## Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

***'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,  
let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.'***

*Mark 8:27-35*

There can be no shortcuts, no bypassing the cross or the tomb, to encounter the resurrection. For new life and new hope to emerge, we need to acknowledge that we are a broken, hurt and traumatised Church... by standing in solidarity and compassion with each other, particularly the wounded, the poor and the traumatised.

*(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper pp. 12 and 18)*

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

## 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.

