

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

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**19 September 2021**

**First Reading Wis 2:12, 17-20**  
*A reading from the book of Wisdom.*

The godless say to themselves,  
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man,  
since he annoys us  
and opposes our way of life,  
reproaches us for our breaches of the law  
and accuses us of playing false to our  
upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true,  
let us observe what kind of end he  
himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will  
take his part  
and rescue him from the clutches of his  
enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with  
torture,  
and thus explore this gentleness of his  
and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
since he will be looked after – we have  
his word for it.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6**

**(R.) The Lord upholds my life.**

O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. **(R.)**

For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. **(R.)**

But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Jas 3:16-4:3**  
*A reading from the letter of St James.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition,  
you find disharmony, and wicked things of  
every kind being done; whereas the  
wisdom that comes down from above is  
essentially something pure; it also makes  
for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it  
is full of compassion and shows itself by  
doing good; nor is there any trace of  
partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers,  
when they work for peace, sow the seeds  
which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between  
yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in  
the desires fighting inside your own  
selves? You want something and you

haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill.  
You have an ambition that you cannot  
satisfy; so you fight to get your way by  
force. Why you don't have what you want is  
because you don't pray for it; when you do  
pray and don't get it, it is because you have  
not prayed properly, you have prayed for  
something to indulge your own desires.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation See 2 Thes 2:14**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Alleluia!**

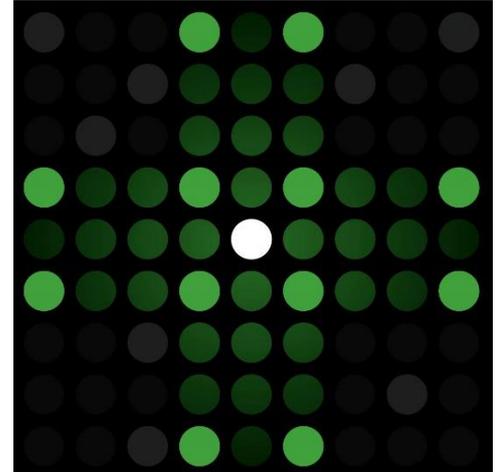
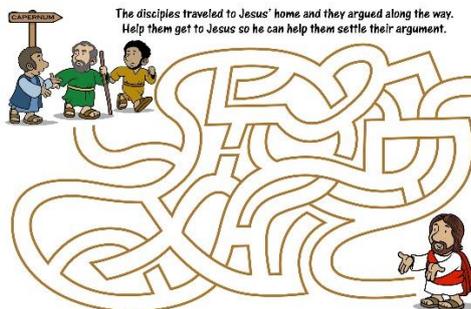
**Gospel Mk 9:30-37**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his  
disciples made their way through Galilee;  
and he did not want anyone to know,  
because he was instructing his disciples;  
he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will  
be delivered into the hands of men; they  
will put him to death; and three days after  
he has been put to death he will rise again.'  
But they did not understand what he said  
and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he  
was in the house he asked them, 'What  
were you arguing about on the road?' They  
said nothing because they had been  
arguing which of them was the greatest. So  
he sat down, called the Twelve to him and  
said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must  
make himself last of all and servant of all.'  
He then took a little child, set him in front  
of them, put his arms round him, and said  
to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of  
these little children in my name, welcomes  
me; and anyone who welcomes me  
welcomes not me but the one who sent  
me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **REFLECTION** by Fr Michael Tate

### *Marginal People*

Jesus was well aware of the constant  
temptation for the leaders amongst his  
followers to be conditioned by the  
surrounding social and political structures.  
So, when he became aware that his disciples  
were disputing 'who is the greatest', he  
decided to teach them a lesson by engaging  
in some counter-cultural street theatre.

Jesus saw a young boy on the edge of the  
crowd and beckoned him into the middle of  
his group of disciples. This was not because  
of some sentimental idea that all kids are  
little innocents, but because in his society,  
children were absolutely at the bottom of the  
social scale. Jesus moved an utter nobody  
from the margins of society to the centre,  
challenging his disciples to change their  
perspective.

This challenge is made to all of us. We must  
identify those on the margins, some of whom  
we have quite literally dis-located like  
indigenous communities or asylum seekers  
and bring them into the centre of our  
concern. There may be pain, personal and  
social, in changing perspective.

We might pause for a moment to pray for a  
new way of seeing, for perseverance in re-  
locating someone in the centre of our  
concerns, for the graceful insight that in  
welcoming that person we have welcomed  
Christ.

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.

Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**1st Reading:** Nm 11:25-29

**2nd Reading:** Jas 5:1-6

**Gospel:** Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



# Prayer Requests

**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:** Greg Dunn, Marie Ernst, Margaret Ernst, Richard Paget. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Ruby Brown. **May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.**

Bishop Bill Wright has issued a Pastoral Message regarding his resignation due to ill health. This can be found on the Parish website at <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au/pastoral-message-from-bishop-bill/> and a copy is on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

**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>			
<b>St Patrick's Parish</b>			
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
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Brigid's Parish</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 26 SEPTEMBER 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>			J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce		
<b>Commentator</b>			G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>			E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>			J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>			J Walker H Standing	M Petrie		
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						<b>NO Ministers of Communion are required.</b>

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>20 September</b> Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Paul Chõng Ha-Sang & Coms	<b>21 September</b> ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	<b>22 September</b>	<b>23 September</b> St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	<b>24 September</b>	<b>25 September</b>	<b>26 September</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9:45 am Recon St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass St Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton

**MASS WILL NOT BE SAID IN BRANXTON PARISH  
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**

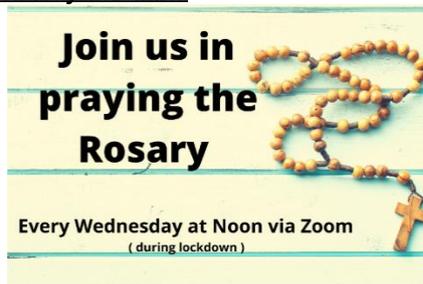
As of Thursday 16 September 2021, lockdown restrictions in Singleton LGA have been eased. This means that Mass can now be said in St Patrick's Church, Singleton subject to the 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup> rule (80 people), there will be no singing and masks MUST be worn. Mass will commence from Friday 17 September 2021 at 9.20am. You may not travel from an area subject to stay-at-home orders to attend Mass.

Cessnock LGA (Branxton Parish) is still subject to stay-at-home orders and as such Branxton and Greta churches will remain CLOSED. This means that Mass will not be said during this time to continue to protect the people from the current 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://singletonbranxtoncatholicparish.org.au) 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 on Wednesdays at noon each week during lockdown via Zoom. Please use these details

Zoom Meeting ID: **641 2678 9062**

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.

## **Seasons of Creation Celebration**

This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another. Join us to hear guest speakers (Father Anthony Coloma, Louise Campbell, John Sandy and Mary-Anne DeLuca) break open this year's Season of Creation theme, "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God". Register for this free online event on Saturday 25 September 2021, 2pm at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-tickets-167271083313>

## **Foster Care Week**

This week is Foster Care Week, a great opportunity to celebrate and thank our wonderful foster carers for the incredible work they do caring for vulnerable children and young people in our community. CatholicCare urgently need foster carers in the Hunter-Manning area who can provide safe, loving homes for children and young people in need. By opening your heart and your home, you're giving these children the opportunity to receive unconditional love, care and a sense of family and connection. This security provides them with hope for the future and a stable environment for them to grow and thrive. Becoming a foster carer is a big step, but you're not alone. CatholicCare will be with you every step of the way, providing training, an allowance and 24/7 support. Different types of care may suit your family. A child can need a place to stay for a night, a week, several months or long-term. Please give us a call on 1300 590 898 or visit [www.catholiccare.org.au/foster-care](http://www.catholiccare.org.au/foster-care).

## **'Amoris Laetitia Family Year' 19 March 2021- 26 June 2022**

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations. Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives. This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection. To access this resource go to

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

## **Caritas Australia Matched Giving Week**

**DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD!** You can help raise a quarter of a MILLION dollars to support vulnerable women around the world! Thanks to a group of very generous Caritas Australia's supporters, all donations until Thursday, 23 September will be matched, until we reach our target of \$250,000. Your donation can help to provide education, develop livelihoods and improve healthcare and protection for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in marginalised communities. Donate before 23 September, or until we meet \$250,000, and your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar. **Double your donation today at [www.caritas.org.au/matched](http://www.caritas.org.au/matched) or call 1800 024 413.**

## **Hope Tree Group**

A new project has been launched for the Hope Tree Group to support. Noelia Paulo is a single mother from Kasangezi, Tanzania. When her husband passed away in 2018, he had been constructing a house for his family. Unfortunately, it was not completed. The flooring and doors still need to be finished. Noelia is unemployed. She has two children who attend school and she is not able to pay the fees. To earn money, she would like to sell sweaters she knits but her knitting machine is damaged. Donation required to assist her will be \$500.



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

## Plenary Conversations Report Week Three: Prayer

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.

An immediate and important point to stress is the difference between Prayer and Liturgy. The conversation explored ways that we can develop our Prayer Life beyond Liturgy. A hidden bonus of the unwanted COVID isolation is that many of us may have been forced to rethink what may have been our weekly hour of prayer, i.e., the mass, and to consider praying at home, praying when we are enjoying our exercise walk on a beautiful spring day or praying for a loved one that we are unable to visit. We will be challenged not to give up this new-found Prayer Life when mass resumes later in the year.

Because we have been forced into developing our own Prayer Life, we have been also forced to accept the fact that praying is our own individual responsibility. Inability to attend mass may be blamed on the government, mass times, dislike for physical or personal aspects of a church or broader issues associated with the church, but a failure to pray can only be a failure to choose to pray.

So, what is prayer? First and foremost, Prayer is a relationship. When we decide to pray, we must give ourselves to God. Having made that commitment, we can talk to God, we can listen to God, and we can simply sit together with God. Like any conversation with a loved one, we can then come away with some new thoughts. We can come away satisfied that we have expressed an opinion and asked for something. Or we can come away simply happy that we have spent some quality time with that particular loved one. What comes next is also part of Prayer, we wait, and we listen/observe. Prayer doesn't finish with Amen, it finishes when we accept and work with whatever response we are given.

A final point to consider in this brief resume, is the importance of "being in the zone". We have all been to a sporting match or a concert and become totally engrossed in the event. When it is over, we realise that we haven't thought about anything else for a couple of hours and, because of that, we drew energy and excitement from simply being there, living the moment. Prayer, and this time I will include Liturgy, should be the same. Either in the church or in our quiet Prayer place, we need to be in the zone. We and God to the exclusion of all else. We can best live the moment of our praying if that is the sole purpose of our being, in that moment.



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

### Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

***'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me.'***

*Mark 9:30-37*

Our parishes in particular are challenged to renew the formation of children, young people and families who may not be strongly connected to the Church but who still have an 'instinct for the faith' which prompts them to seek the sacraments or engage in part with of the Church's life.

*(Instrumentum Laboris #133)*

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

## Let's Stay COVID Safe 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.

