

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

25th 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!*

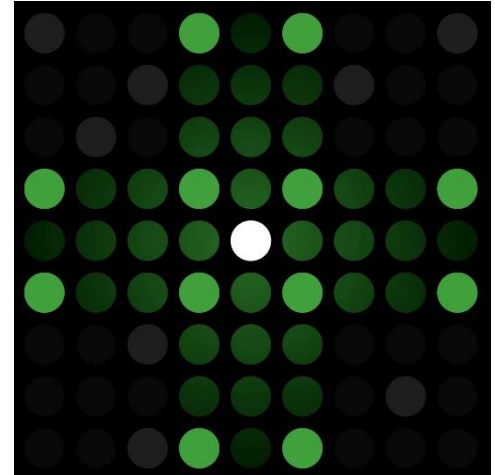
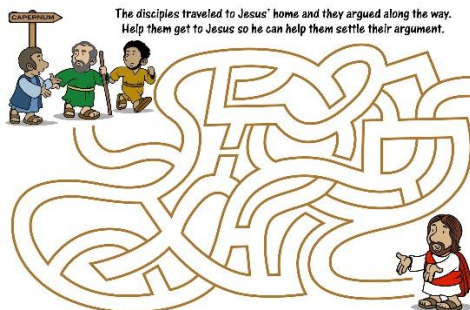
Gospel **Mk 9:30-37**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.*

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

26th 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	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)			
St Patrick's Parish			
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer			J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce		
Commentator			G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
Readers			E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers			J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory			J Walker H Standing	M Petrie		
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
20 September Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Paul Chõng Ha-Sang & Coms	21 September ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	22 September	23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	24 September	25 September	26 September 26 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9:00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9:45 am</u> Recon St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> 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

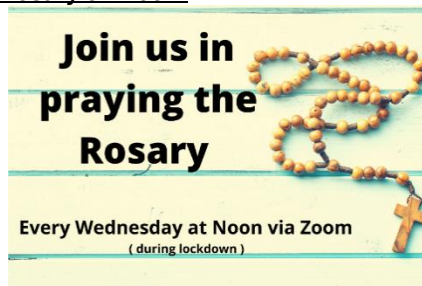
As of Thursday 16 September 2021, lockdown restrictions in Singleton LGA have been eased. This means that Mass can now be said in St Patrick's Church, Singleton subject to the 1 person per 4m² rule (80 people), there will be no singing and masks MUST be worn. Mass will commence from Friday 17 September 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.

'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 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/fantheffame/

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.

