

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Migrant & Refugee Sunday

26 September 2021

First Reading

Nm 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9

(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**

So in them your servant finds instructions; great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. **(R.)**

From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Jas 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire

that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

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



SEASON OF CREATION

by Nick Brodie

Twice in today's Gospel Jesus refers to the everlasting fire of hell. Better to lose a hand or an eye than endure that, he says, making some dramatic points about sin and sacrifice.

At this moment in human history Jesus' choice of imagery and his message about dramatic action are especially pertinent. As Pope Francis declares in his encyclical 'Laudato Si', climate change is an imminent threat to our world. For Christians, this raises two issues directly relevant to this passage from Mark.

On the one hand, we have a duty to protect ourselves and each other from catastrophe by checking our own sinful behaviours and habits. We should seriously consider what we can do to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels through personal usage, investment options, and political choices. We cannot dodge responsibility on this issue. Our faith demands action.

On the other hand, we also have a duty to find common cause with everyone else who shares this concern. Pope Francis encourages us to work with people of other religions 'for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity'. When it comes to protecting our common home, 'Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Gen 2:18-24

2nd Reading: Heb 2:9-11

Gospel: Mk 10:2-16



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bishop Bill Wright, Helen Boza, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Conchita Ekin, Evelyn Escala Lopez, Janice Haines, 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: George Brodbeck, Clyde Standing, Henry Holz, Leo Nowland and Ellen Dagg. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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 3 OCTOBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer			J Walker C Crow	D Jarrett S Wheeler		
Commentator			G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers			E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg	
Prayers			P Boyd	T Wells		2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory			G Cattermole			
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
27 September <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	28 September St Wenceslaus St Lawrence Ruiz & Companions	29 September STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	30 September <i>St Jerome</i>	1 October <i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus</i>	2 October <i>The Guardian Angels</i>	3 October 27 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
8.00am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	5.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	5.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	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>

**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.

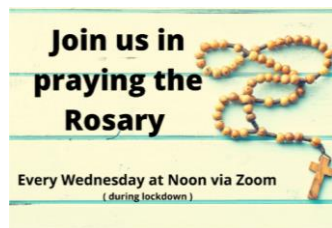
COVID-19 UPDATE FOR OUR PARISHES

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. 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://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.

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.

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 the sweaters she knits but her knitting machine is damaged. Donation required to assist her will be \$500.

107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Migrant and Refugee Sunday is celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in September. This brings the practice of the Church in Australia into line with the practice of the Church around the world. The theme for 2021 is ***Towards an Ever Wider "We"***.

This year, World Day of Migrants and Refugees urges us towards an ever wider 'we' in our attitude to the vast numbers of people who are at any one time traversing our world as migrants and refugees, towards an ever wider 'we' in our disposition to all people. It appears to be something of a human trait that we too often see differences that serve to exclude or divide rather than seeing what we share in common, which serves to include and unite.

You can read Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021 at

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20210503_world-migrants-day-2021.html

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

All are welcome to attend the St Patrick's Parish 1st Anniversary Mass to be held on Saturday 2 October 2021 at 9.20am to pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time and especially

- ✠ Margaret Hill
- ✠ Barbara Jones
- ✠ Marie Ernst
- ✠ Kathleen O'Connor
- ✠ Allan Peterson
- ✠ Marion Hayward

Pastoral Message from Bishop Bill

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/>

A copy has been posted on the noticeboard of St Patrick's Church, Singleton

World Mission Month - October

The second reading offers us a salutary reminder about the importance of always looking beyond this world, and this life, as men and women of faith. Wealth and material possessions are temporary – the call to build the kingdom of God is permanent. As Christians, and as members of the Catholic Church, we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, in preparation for our foray into the world around us. This is what it means to be on Mission and this reading urges us not to forget that storing up "treasure for the last days", when others around us are going without and are suffering, is not the Christian way.

As we prepare to enter the month of October – a time when the Church celebrates World Mission Month - let us turn our hearts, minds and even our financial affairs, to the missionary work that the Catholic Church does with, and for, children around the world, including Thailand. Consider your capacity to either make a major gift in this life or an eternal legacy, through a gift in your will.

To support Catholic Mission's annual World Mission Month appeal, go to www.catholicmission.org.au and type the name *Kusa* into the search bar. For information about leaving a bequest to Catholic Mission, on the website click on *Wills & Bequests* at the top of the page.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of Catholic Mission's work, please call David McGovern our Diocesan Director on 0488 115 401 or email him at dcmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au

Keep your eye on the bulletin for more information about Catholic Mission's work.





Plenary Conversations Report Week Four: Structures

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.

The conversation identified three levels of Structure, however on further reflection I would suggest that there are four. As with each conversation the aim is to identify how we can better understand what God is asking of us, individually and collectively as a church, and then move forward on a path that reflects the missionary nature of our church. Last week we considered Prayer, an area of our life that is at our own time and pace and therefore it does not interfere with anyone else. This week, a consideration of Structures, begins what will be three weeks where our consciousness of how we are part of a community and our beliefs in and within that community, may challenge our enthusiasm for change. Sit with the spirit and your thoughts.

The first and second levels of Structure are fairly obvious. The first is formal structure. This includes Government or Religious legislation, it may be buildings, it may be WHS restrictions, and it will vary from one jurisdiction to another. Often, we feel we can't change this type of structure, but we are living in a very lucky country where we do have elections and a judicial system. *My own comment here; there has been much discussion within the Synod process about where the church, both local and broader, sits within this capacity for change; an ongoing discussion!* The second structure is informal. Be it a church or a club or similar smaller grouping, such collectives attempt to fit their local organisations into the formal, possibly national, structure by considering their own needs and circumstances. Such structures change with more regularity. History shows that there is always a personal flavour here, but it also shows that many good people throughout the centuries have simply tried to do what is best for their local community.

The conversation then identified the third level of structure, culture. Without labelling the church culture as being good or bad, innovative, or restrictive, we need to embrace the fact that the church is no different to any human grouping – it has a culture, again both broadly and locally. The conversation identified that, in many ways, culture is much stronger than formal or informal structures. This is because it is based on our beliefs, not just an acceptance of the rules. If we are going to hear the Spirit and move, then there will need to be some very frank and honest discussion around culture.

This leads to the fourth structure, which I am going to label – personal. As strong as cultural structure is, we often find it difficult to change our own beliefs and habits. We have lived with them and argued for them, are we prepared to listen, even if it is the spirit that is sending the message. This conversation highlighted for me the importance of the Lenten Contemplative Dialogue program. Perhaps it could be reexplored.

At whatever level, structures need to serve the parish, not suffocate it. What function do the structures that I am involved in serve, or do they simply preserve? A final thought from the evening..."everyone wants change, no one wants to change."



Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

The healing hands and support offered by a humble and merciful community are at the heart of a response to trauma and woundedness. Many need and yearn for full integration into the life of a loving community, where one is known and belongs.

(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper p. 12)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

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.

