

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

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

**3 October 2021**

**First Reading**                      **Gen 2:18-24**  
*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**            **Ps 127. R. v.5**  
**(R.) May the Lord bless us**  
**all the days of our lives.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace!. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**                      **Heb 2:9-11**  
*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**                      **cf. 1 Jn 4:12**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**If we love one another,**  
**God will live in us in perfect love.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**    **Mk 10:2-16**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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



**SEASON OF CREATION**  
**by Nick Brodie**

*Jesus repeatedly called out the Pharisees' inflexible attitudes and hypocritical behaviours. They were seemingly fixated on the letter of the law at the expense of its spirit. Given that, Jesus' reply to the Pharisees' loaded question about divorce is fascinating. Jesus answers a deliberately provocative legal question by referring to two data points: law and creation. When the two appear at odds in this instance Jesus prioritises creation.*

*With this in mind, we would do well to remember this episode's wider import as this Season of Creation draws to a close. The weight which Jesus gave to creation's divine purpose is surely significant. In that light we should perhaps revisit the spirit of Moses' law, especially that section in chapter 23 of Exodus which commands the people to let the land lie fallow every seventh year. This was for the benefit of the poor and the wild animals. Even the idea of everyone resting on the sabbath every week was partly and explicitly so that the community's oxen and donkeys could have a rest. In the long view, therefore, protecting creation is an ancient part of our faith's tradition. The question is: do we still live up to its spirit?*

© Nick Brodie

© 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:**

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will.

For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

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

**1st Reading:** Wis 7:7-11

**2nd Reading:** Heb 4:12-13

**Gospel:** Mk 10:17-30



# 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, David Patton, 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 Ernst, John Slusarski, Wendy Pucher, Val Pucher, Alfred Pucher, Kevin Keegan. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

**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>St Patrick's Parish 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>St Brigid's Parish 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 10 OCTOBER 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>			J Walker C Crow	J Dries		
<b>Commentator</b>			G Cattermole	J Patton	E Janssen	
<b>Readers</b>			J Duldulao H Duldulao	T Cochrane M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>			P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>			C O'Connor B Thompson			
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</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>4 October</b> <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	<b>5 October</b>	<b>6 October</b> <i>St Bruno</i>	<b>7 October</b> <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	<b>8 October</b>	<b>9 October</b> <i>St Denis &amp; Comps</i> <i>St John Leonardi</i>	<b>10 October</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm 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 6.00pm Mass Broke	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm 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.

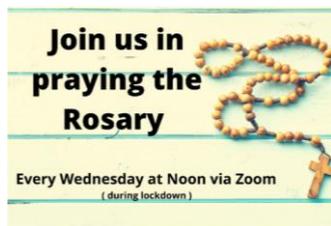
## **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR OUR PARISHES**

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. 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.

## **Start of Daylight Savings – Change to Evening Mass times**



With the start of daylight savings this weekend, evening Mass in Singleton will change to 6pm from Tuesday 5 October 2021. Don't forget to put your clocks forward on Saturday night so you aren't early for Mass!

## **Senior Singles Lunch**

The Senior Singles Group will hold their monthly lunch get together on Tuesday 12 October at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. All single seniors in our Parishes are more than welcome to come along to enjoy a conversation over lunch.

## **Plenary Council – Assembly One**

The First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia opens with Mass at 2pm (AEDT–11am AWST) from St Mary's Cathedral, Perth on Sunday, 3 October.

The journey to the Plenary Council has been long (and made longer by the coronavirus pandemic), nor will it not end with the First General Assembly. Work toward a Council began in 2016 when the Australian Bishops confirmed a plan to host one in 2020. In March 2018 Pope Francis granted formal approval for the Church in Australia to hold the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

The listening and dialogue phase began in May 2018, inviting people to consider the question 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?'. In July 2019 the National Centre for Pastoral Research published 'Listen to What the Spirit is Saying', and then the Listening and Discernment phase opened, inviting people to reflect on the six National Themes for Discernment through prayer, listening, sharing and discernment. With the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plenary Council assemblies planned for October 2020 and April 2021 were postponed until October 2021 and July 2022.

While originally hoped to meet in person, the pandemic has meant the first assembly will be a mix of in-person and online delivery. The historic event will develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia. Following the assembly, it is expected a number of documents will be produced to be reviewed, considered and hopefully approved at the next assembly.

In the meantime, as the first assembly gets underway, you are invited to watch the live-streamed Mass and access other information at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

## **St Francis of Assisi – Feast Day 4 October**



St Francis of Assisi was born the son of a wealthy merchant of Assisi in 1181. After a conversion experience as a young man, St Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes, instead wearing the simple garments given to him by the bishop of Assisi. Living a life of extreme poverty, St Francis preached in the streets, begged for his sustenance, served the sick and lived in harmony with nature. After attracting followers, he founded the Franciscan order in 1209.

He continued living in poverty, preaching and working with lepers. In 1221 he resigned as the head of the Franciscans. After living in meditation on Mount Alvernia he received the stigmata, which bled periodically for the remaining two years of his life. His prayer, 'Canticle of the Sun', epitomises St Francis' communion with God and the universe and makes him an obvious patron of environmental causes.

# LIFT KUSA FROM POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

In three weeks' time, in celebration of World Mission Month, Catholic Mission will share with us about the Kindergarten Centre run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand.

The Kindergarten provides vital early childhood education for disadvantaged children who would otherwise miss out, but it cannot continue without the generous support of people like you.

We hope you will join us in supporting this incredibly life-changing program.

*\*Image altered to protect identity*



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/education](http://catholicmission.org.au/education)



## Plenary Conversations Report Week Five: Governance

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.

As anticipated from Conversation 4, there has been a change in tone as the discussion by the delegates moves from liturgical and missionary topics to structural matters and specifically, today's conversation, GOVERNANCE. Despite this and within the context of a very challenging introductory presentation, it was emphasised that good governance can be achieved within a setting of trust and humility. Be it religious or civil, governance can be done with love and care.

Unlike governance found in a civil setting, religious governance is bound by an extra legal layer. Canon Law is added to the requirements laid out in our societal legal statutes. To a major extent the discussion around the value, quality or relevance of Canon Law is itself, irrelevant because it is part of our governance and won't be changing any time soon. However, one of the points that came out strongly was that despite this very set and traditional structure of governance, there is no reason why the culture of our church, both locally and more broadly, can't change dramatically. The key to this change appeared to be the sentiment – "it might be legal, but is it right?"

As part of this cultural change, we need to move away from the concept of "going to church" – a concept that implicitly suggests that we are passive recipients from a more powerful body to the concept of "we are the church" – suggesting much more strongly that we want to take an active role in governance and that, simultaneously, we elect to exercise our rights and share the responsibilities. If we are to be a church with active and relevant governance, we need to consider the extent to which we are Inclusive, Diverse, Multi-Generational and Multi-Cultural. If we are to demand (*Peter thinks out loud - possibly too strong a word*), our right to share in Governance then we must accept that it is our responsibility to ensure that those four pillars are addressed. Good governance starts with me, and I am a valued member of a team that is representative and aware. It was emphasised that in any consideration of Governance we must always remember that the church is more than a business. Because of the demands and scrutiny of both State and Diocese it can mean that Governance is often little more than management and maintenance, very much that business model. The delegates were keen to talk of a team effort to reduce the demands on the current governing groups. There was a strong sentiment that co-responsibility was the key that would enable movement from the maintenance model to a leadership and future thinking model where the parish' chief protagonist and his/her team could come from any and all parts of the local Christian community. There was no doubt that there are quality leaders in our communities, we just have to invite them into our church and then ensure that our church is a place that they want to be.

## 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.

