

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

10 October 2021

First Reading

Wis 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

*(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!*

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune. **(R.)**

Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Heb 4:12-13

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

Mt 5:3

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!*

Gospel

Mk 10:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

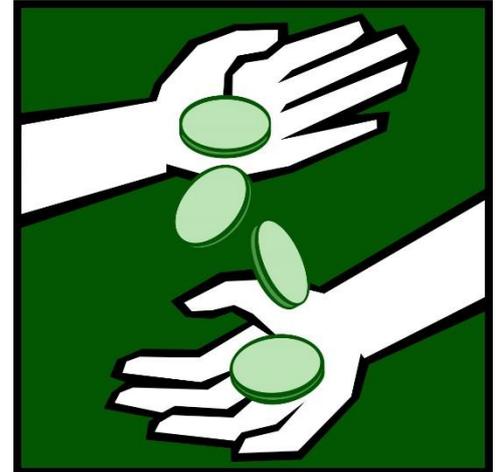
Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

The Loving Gaze

The man in this story is described (at the end) as a man of great wealth, so that when Jesus says 'There is one thing you lack', it would have got his attention. But he learnt to his shock that what he lacked was the big-heartedness which would enable him to give up the security and status and power which came with his possessions.

Jesus was not satisfied with the wealthy man's minimalist agenda of keeping the commandments. He is just as dissatisfied with us. We each know what is holding us back from being a wholehearted follower of Jesus Christ. At some stage in our lives, we have known, or know now, or will know, what it is we are hanging onto: the one thing we cannot, will not, give up, the one thing that is so much part of our personality we cannot imagine what it would be like to get rid of it.

There is only one thing that can give you, give me, the courage and trust that is needed. In this Gospel story, and the only time in Mark, it says: 'Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.' This is not the glare of the critical eye but similar to the gaze of a parent on a newborn child, envisaging and encouraging a beautiful future for that child.

We could take a moment to pray, 'Lord, I know there is something I must give up to enable me to follow you more nearly. Give me the courage which can only come from knowing that you gaze steadily at me and love me.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: Is 53:10-11

2nd Reading: Heb 4:14-16

Gospel: Mk 10:35-45



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bishop Bill Wright, Linda Benson, Helen Boza, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Conchita Ekin, Evelyn Escala Lopez, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Larry King, Blake Lloyd, Mick McCrone, David Patton, Irene Robinson, 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: Ann McCormack, Allan Petersen, Eileen Ball, Ray Ryan, John Stedman. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Andy McNally, Eileen Meier, Laurel Gatt. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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 17 OCTOBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer			J Walker C Crow	R Gee R James		
Commentator			G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers			D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	L Gresham V Gresham	
Prayers			J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory			R & D Nowland			
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
11 October <i>St John XXIII</i>	12 October	13 October	14 October <i>St Callistus I</i>	15 October <i>St Teresa of Jesus (Avila)</i>	16 October <i>St Hedwig St Margaret Mary Alacoque</i>	17 October 29 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9:45 am</u> Recon <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>

**MASS WILL NOT BE SAID IN BRANXTON PARISH
UNTIL 80% VACCINATION RATE IS REACHED**

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.

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.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

St Patrick's Women's Guild will meet at the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights, on Wednesday 13 October at 1.30pm. New members most welcome.

Australia Needs Fatima – Public Rosary

Unfortunately, with the current situation, the Public Rosary to be held on Saturday 16 October 2021 at St Catherine's Greta has been cancelled. Why not encourage those around you to say the Rosary with you in your front yard to ask God's blessing on our country and an end to the Covid-19 virus. If you do hold a Rosary like this, please let Darryl know on 0418662672 so that he can pass on details to the Australia Needs Fatima organization. Take photos if you can and share with the Parish.

Fire Incident – Old Junior School Singleton

You may have heard the news earlier in the week via NBN or Facebook that several of the old junior school rooms were destroyed or damaged by fire in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Thankfully, no one was in the property at the time and the blaze was contained to the old school grounds.

As there was a threat of asbestos in the buildings the fire fighters used a special foam to douse the fire to keep the fibres from flying around. The police are investigating the incident as it could be linked to other fires set on the night. If you have any information, please call Singleton Police Station on 02 6578 7499 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Maitland-Newcastle Diocese WHS Team were notified of the incident and on Wednesday a contractor applied a 'blue-glue' which holds the asbestos fibres in place on the parts of the buildings remaining and the debris on the ground. The grounds of the St Nicholas Early Education Centre were checked thoroughly, and no trace of asbestos was found there. A safety fence with warning signs was erected on Thursday to keep the site safe.

Quotes will be obtained to demolish all the buildings on site as most were affected by fire damage. The Parish have lodged a claim with our insurer, Catholic Church Insurance, to help cover the costs.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of Monday 11 October 2021, the first stage of reopening commences as 70% of eligible people are now fully vaccinated in NSW. The easing of restrictions only applies to those who are **FULLY VACCINATED**.

SINGLETON PARISH

Since Singleton Parish churches are already open due to the stay-at-home orders having been lifted, they will remain OPEN.

However, you will need to show you are **FULLY VACCINATED to attend Mass or have a medical exemption**. This is a regulation of the Public Health Order of 11 October 2021 which will need to be complied with to keep our church OPEN. Your compliance with attending Mass only if you are **FULLY VACCINATED is very important** as fines of \$1000 for individuals and \$5000 for the parish are applicable.

Please always have proof of your vaccination with you to show on entry. There are 3 ways to show proof of your vaccinations:

- Your COVID-19 digital certificate via your Medicare online account in MyGov which shows proof of only your COVID-19 vaccinations that you can add to a digital wallet.
- Your immunisation history statement which lists your COVID-19 vaccinations and all other vaccinations.
- If you don't have a smart phone, you can call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 to receive a copy in the mail.

NO PROOF – NO ENTRY. If those attending find it difficult to comply with this Public Health Order, we may be forced to close the church until the 80% vaccination milestone is reached.

We understand the frustration you may feel having these rules in place; however, we must comply with the Orders set by the government. It should only be 2 weekends until the 80% vaccination rate is reached and then we can welcome everyone back to Mass.

BRANXTON PARISH

The Diocese has made the decision not to re-open those churches currently closed under stay-at-home orders. Instead, we will wait until we can welcome everyone (vaccinated and unvaccinated) to Mass at the 80% vaccinated milestone. Fully vaccinated people from Branxton Parish are welcome to attend Mass in Singleton.

MASS ONLINE

If you are not able to attend Mass due to the vaccination requirements, you are invited to join Mass on our Parish Facebook page [SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish](https://www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish) and the Parish Website <https://singletoncatholicparish.org.au> from 7.00am on Sundays.

REOPENING STARTS AT 70%

- > Wedding ceremonies permitted with density limits for up to 100 people (5-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated)
- > Wedding receptions permitted with density limits for up to 100 people (not permitted for people who are not fully vaccinated), eating and drinking must be seated, and dancing is permitted
- > Funerals permitted with density limits for up to 100 people (10-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated) and eating and drinking must be seated
- > Places of worship reopen with density limits
- > Up to 10 fully vaccinated singers may perform in places of worship and at religious services

When considering receiving a vaccination or not, people of good faith should ensure that they consider the good of the broader community when making their decision. It is not simply a question of the individual but of the whole community. As Pope Francis has said, it is an act of love to receive a vaccination in the face of a pandemic.

LIFT KUSA FROM POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

In two weeks' time, in celebration of World Mission Month, Catholic Mission will share with us the life-changing work of the Good Shepherd Sisters as they provide vital early childhood education for disadvantaged children.

You will hear the story of Kusa*, just one of the hundred students currently enrolled in the Kindergarten Centre, and how the Kindergarten is giving him a head start to a brighter future that he would otherwise miss out on.

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

*Name altered to protect identity



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/education



Plenary Conversations Report Week Six: Institutions

Peter Conroy has attended the Plenary Conversations held over the last few weeks in preparation for the First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council and shares his comments and observations with us.

This is the sixth and final conversation run by the Diocese. By the time the bulletin is published many of the actual Plenary Council meetings will have been completed. The task will then be left to nominated councillors to finalise the documentation of the Council and give definitive directions to the church leaders of Australia. One hopes that at the individual Diocese and Parish levels we can see and accept clear guidelines.

This conversation was about INSTITUTIONS, and, from my perspective, I found it the least interesting and least constructive. This should not be seen as a reflection on those who presented or those who work in the Catholic sectors rather as an indication that, as parishioners I/we do not interact with most Catholic institutions on a day-to-day basis. For example, I do not have dealings with, knowledge of or constructive suggestions for the Catholic Agencies that deal with Aged Care, Health or Social Services. I was happy to hear what they do and accept that they service our community to the best of their ability. No doubt, if they were closely scrutinised there would be areas for improvement and there would be individuals and programs that were worthy of praise. This is true of any organisation. The concern is that they have blended into the overall sector in which they work. Be it Catholic, another faith-based group, another service group, or a state-run organisation the broader community does not separate the individual entities. I left the evening feeling that the Catholic bodies did a good job, but apart from self-identification they were not seen as anything beyond a well run and good quality service. How this can be changed was not really addressed.

Possibly the one sector where this is less true is schools. Parents make an active decision to send their children to a Catholic school. Then through P&F and other groups they often have close interaction with the school. Because state education is universal there is always an option of either the school down the road or the Catholic school, parents consciously decide. As with the other sectors, the presenter on the evening, highlighted a number of quality programs that are run by specific Catholic schools. The programs showed community awareness and offered support to vulnerable groups. But again, they didn't really differentiate the Catholic schools from quality non-Catholic alternatives. Even though parents make the decision to support the Catholic School system, the key question of *why do parents make this choice and how is this choice reflected in our parishes*, remains a significant issue for this and all Dioceses. From this conversation, this was the sector that demanded more attention.

Thank You to the parish for including my thoughts in the Bulletin, thank you to those who have read them. Now that we are leaving lockdown, I would be happy to continue these conversations at parish level, "over a cuppa".

Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass. It 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 and your **VACCINATION** proof.
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.

