

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

17 October 2021

First Reading **Is 53:10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life

and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love. to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Heb 4:14-16**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 10:45**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.**
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mk 10:35-45**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

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



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

Three Hummock Island

The sons of Zebedee expected Jesus to lead a Messianic revolt to throw off the yoke of imperial Rome. But they wanted to be part of a similar sort of power structure. They had not grasped that Jesus had come to turn that sort of society upside down.

However, over the centuries, the Church took on much of the trappings of power of imperial Rome. The popes governed much of Italy. Giuseppe Garibaldi was one of those generals who defeated the forces defending the Papal States, and in doing so actually liberated the papacy from its role as feudal overlord of much of Italy.

In the course of the campaign, when despondent, Garibaldi often reflected on the delightful time he spent on Three Hummock Island just off the coast of Tasmania. So we may say that the liberation of the papacy, enabling it to respond more clearly to today's Gospel, began in Tasmania!

Pope Francis embodies the spirit of today's Gospel. He rails against a Church exhibiting 'the leprosy of a feudal court'. Rather, he has said: 'I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.' And in his actions he has shown himself as a true 'Servant of the servants of God' as Jesus commands in today's Gospel.

We may pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis that he may have the strength and time to persevere in his responding to today's Gospel so that the papacy may be truly liberated so as to practise a radically different way of exercising leadership in the Church and for the world

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

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, Ian Bajo, Linda Benson, Helen Boza, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Conchita Ekin, Evelyn Escala Lopez, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Jonah Iona, 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: Marie Quinn and Errol Redgrove. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

Baptism: Emma Retanan (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

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		singletonbranxton @parish_sb
		YouTube	
		Twitter	
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 24 OCTOBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer			J Walker C Crow	P & L Boyce		
Commentator			G Cattermole	S Thomas		
Readers			J Tindale E Thomas	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers			J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory			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
18 October St Luke	19 October St John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues & com St Paul of the Cross	20 October	21 October	22 October St Paul II	23 October St John of Capistrano	24 October 30 th 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 Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton

**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.

2022 Pastoral Placement Program

Applications are now open for the 2022 Pastoral Placement Program. The program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices. For more information and to learn to how to apply go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

Diocesan Advent Reflection: waiting with a purpose

As we continue our Synodal journey, an Advent resource, *Waiting with Purpose*, has been created for our diocese. *Waiting with Purpose* responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. *Waiting with Purpose* invites us to use Mystagogical Reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical reflection meets us where we are. No preparation is needed. It's about being open to encountering Christ so we can live from Christ. It's deeply personal and communal. *Waiting with Purpose* and accompanying resources will be available soon on the diocesan website. During November there are several opportunities for anyone who is interested to 'have a go' at mystagogical reflection. During Advent there are opportunities for those who cannot gather in their local communities to experience *Waiting with Purpose* via Zoom. To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

Palms Australia – Global Mission

Since 1961 [Palms Australia](https://www.palms.org.au) has quietly prepared and supported humble Catholics like you for mission. It's our response as a church to calls from Australian and overseas communities to help bring opportunity to the poor. Sharing your skills with local co-workers helps them to develop their essential community organisations. Improving their self-reliance aids sustainable poverty reduction and removes dependence on foreign aid and influence. Your relationships within the local community will transform your heart and soul. To be prepared for a 2022 placement by Friday October 29 visit [palms.org.au](https://www.palms.org.au) email palms@palms.org.au or call Christine on 02 9560 5333

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.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2021

“We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once we experience the power of God’s love, and recognize his fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. Jesus’ relationship with his disciples and his humanity, as revealed to us in the mystery of his Incarnation, Gospel and Paschal Mystery, shows us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes his own our joys and sufferings, our hopes and our concerns (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). Everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission: “Go therefore to the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find” (Mt 22:9). No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.

The experience of the Apostles

The history of evangelization began with the Lord’s own passionate desire to call and enter into friendly dialogue with everyone, just as they are (cf. Jn 15:12-17). The Apostles are the first to tell us this; they remembered even the day and the hour when they first met him: “It was about four o’clock in the afternoon” (Jn 1:39). Experiencing the Lord’s friendship, watching him cure the sick, dine with sinners, feed the hungry, draw near to the outcast, touch the unclean, identify with the needy, propose the Beatitudes and teach in a new and authoritative way, left an indelible mark on them, awakening amazement, expansive joy and a profound sense of gratitude. The prophet Jeremiah describes this experience as one of a consuming awareness of the Lord’s active presence in our heart, impelling us to mission, regardless of the sacrifices and misunderstandings it may entail (cf. 20:7-9). Love is always on the move, and inspires us to share a wonderful and hope-filled message: “We have found the Messiah” (Jn 1:41).

With Jesus, we too have seen, heard and experienced that things can be different. Even now, he has inaugurated future times, reminding us of an often forgotten dimension of our humanity, namely, that “we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love” (Fratelli Tutti, 68). A future that awakens a faith capable of inspiring new initiatives and shaping communities of men and women who, by learning to accept their own frailty and that of others, promote fraternity and social friendship (cf. *ibid.*, 67). The ecclesial community reveals its splendour whenever it recalls with gratitude that the Lord loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19). “The loving predilection of the Lord surprises us, and surprise by its very nature cannot be owned or imposed by us... Only in this way can the miracle of gratuitousness, the gratuitous gift of self, blossom. Nor can missionary fervour ever be obtained as a result of reasoning or calculation. To be ‘in a state of mission’ is a reflection of gratitude” (Message to the Pontifical Mission Societies, 21 May 2020).

Even so, things were not always easy. The first Christians began the life of faith amid hostility and hardship. Experiences of marginalization and imprisonment combined with internal and external struggles that seemed to contradict and even negate what they had seen and heard. Yet, rather than a difficulty or an obstacle leading them to step back or close in on themselves, those experiences impelled them to turn problems, conflicts and difficulties into opportunities for mission. Limitations and obstacles became a privileged occasion for anointing everything and everyone with the Spirit of the Lord. Nothing and no one was to be excluded from the message of liberation.

We have a vivid testimony to all this in the Acts of the Apostles, a book which missionary disciples always have within easy reach. There we read how the fragrance of the Gospel spread as it was preached, awakening the joy that the Spirit alone can bestow. The Book of Acts teaches us to endure hardship by clinging firmly to Christ, in order to grow in the “conviction that God is able to act in any circumstance, even amid apparent setbacks” and in the certainty that “all those who entrust themselves to God will bear good fruit” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 279).

The same holds true for us: our own times are not easy. The pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty and the injustices experienced by so many people. It has unmasked our false sense of security and revealed the brokenness and polarization quietly growing in our midst. Those who are most frail and vulnerable have come to feel even more so. We have experienced discouragement, disillusionment and fatigue; nor have we been immune from a growing negativity that stifles hope. For our part, however, “we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake” (2 Cor 4:5). As a result, in our communities and in our families, we can hear the powerful message of life that echoes in our hearts and proclaims: “He is not here, but has risen (Lk 24:6)! This message of hope shatters every form of determinism and, to those who let themselves be touched by it, bestows the freedom and boldness needed to rise up and seek with creativity every possible way to show compassion, the “sacramental” of God’s closeness to us, a closeness that abandons no one along the side of the road.

Continued in next week’s bulletin

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.

