

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

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**31 October 2021**

**First Reading**

**Dt 6:2-6**

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2**

*(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Heb 7:23-28**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering

himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them  
and we will come to them.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

**Mk 12:28-34**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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



**REFLECTION**  
by Fr Michael Tate

**The Dual Command**

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

© 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:**

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**1st Reading:** 1 Kgs 17:10-16

**2nd Reading:** Heb 9:24-28

**Gospel:** Mk 12:38-44



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bishop Bill Wright, Dominick Antija, Helen Boza, Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Conchita Ekin, Jovie Eugenio, Greg Jervis, Evelyn Escala Lopez, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Jonah Iona, Blake Lloyd, Mick McCrone, David Patton, Irene Robinson, Arlo Spicer, Anne Standing, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

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

**Baptisms:** Fletcher Bridge (Branxton), Percy Kirkwood (Greta), Amirah Long (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**RCIA:** Tahnee Flaws. **Called to be a light in the world.**

**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 7 NOVEMBER 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	D Jarrett		
<b>Commentator</b>		L Pozywio	G Cattermole	R Gee		
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas C Szumilus	L Gorczyca	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>		D Clarke	P Boyd	T Wells	E Janssen	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	J Partridge	P Bridge	G Cattermole			
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						<b>NO Ministers of Communion are required.</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>1 November</b> <b>ALL SAINTS</b>	<b>2 November</b> THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED	<b>3 November</b> St Martin de Porres	<b>4 November</b> St Charles Borromeo	<b>5 November</b>	<b>6 November</b>	<b>7 November</b> 32 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</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>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.00am</u> ** Mass St Brigid's Branxton  **NOTE CHANGE		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.00am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

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.

## **Welcome Back to Mass**

With the lifting of restrictions on Monday 18 October 2021 we can now welcome everyone back to Mass in Branxton and Singleton Parishes. All usual Mass times will now re-commence. See the Weekly Mass Diary.

With everyone now able to return to Mass, the livestream of Sunday Mass from St Patrick's Church will discontinue. Sacred Heart Cathedral will continue to livestream their Sunday Mass at 9.30am via <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/>

Those attending Mass do not need to be vaccinated, however, if you are attending a Funeral or Wedding in our churches you will need to be vaccinated and show proof of this. Please continue to follow the Conditions of Entry which are printed on the back of the bulletin when at Mass.

When considering whether to receive 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'.

## **Solomon Okovido - Ordination to Diaconate**

Bishop William Wright has announced that Bishop Brian Mascord (Diocese of Wollongong) will preside at the Diaconate Ordination of Solomon Okovido on Saturday 4 December 2021 at 10.30am in Singleton.

It is understandable that everyone would love to be a part of Solomon's special day, however, with restrictions of 1 person per 2m<sup>2</sup> which will be in place for *Places of Worship* at the time of the Ordination, St Patrick's Church only allows for 160 people to attend.

Those wishing to attend will need to register via **Sticky Tickets** at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/SGY20> If you have issues accessing the internet or securing a ticket, please call the office.

**Please keep Solomon in your prayers as he prepares for his Ordination.**

## **Senior Singles Lunch**

The Singleton Senior Singles group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 9 November at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members encouraged and welcome.

## **St Patrick's Women's Guild**

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 at the home of Nola Holz at 17 Hallett Place Darlington. The meeting will commence at 1.30pm. All are welcome, we would love to see you there.

## **All Soul's Month**

The month of November begins with our celebration of All Saints Day (Nov 1) and commemoration of All Souls Day (Nov 2). At this time, we give thanks for saints, both dead and living, and remember our deceased relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them.

Envelopes are available at the back of each church to offer Masses for the faithful departed during All Soul's Month. Please place the envelopes in the offertory collection baskets at the back of the church. Family names will be printed in the bulletin.

✠ Mass for the *Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed* on Tuesday 2 November will be said in Singleton at 9.20am and 6.00pm and in Greta at 9.20am.

## **St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon**

All welcome to join us for lunch at the Royal Federal Hotel Branxton on Friday 12 November at 12 noon. Please have names to Helen by Tuesday 9 November by phoning 49381467.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday 10 December. More details later.

## **2021 World Mission Appeal**

On behalf of the children at the Kindergarten Centre, Sister Chalaad and the staff at the Centre, thank you so much for your generous support through last week's Catholic Mission Appeal. Your gift is helping to ensure that Kusa\* and many more children like him are given education and opportunity. Your generosity is also supporting many other mission programs for children and communities around the world.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit [www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work) where you can also sign-up for our regular newsletter.

\*Name altered to protect identity

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Please give generously to help continue this incredible program by using the **APPEAL ENVELOPE** or by going **ONLINE** at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/education> Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

Please return your **APPEAL ENVELOPE** today by placing it in the offertory collection basket at the back of the church.

For information about leaving a bequest to Catholic Mission go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/bequest-legacy>

## **Pastoral Placement Program 2022**

Applications are now open for the 2022 Pastoral Placement Program. 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/>

## **Christian Formation Course 2022**

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity? Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022. The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a 12-month face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. The course is set to commence on 1 February 2022. Expressions of Interest close December 10. For more information go to:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)

**Which are the most important commandments?**



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

# A CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: *CONFIRMATION & HOLY COMMUNION*



*We will welcome the following candidates into full membership of the St Patrick's Parish community next weekend:*

**Friday 5 November, 6pm**

**Gemma Campbell**  
**Addisyn Grant**  
**Rylee Grant**  
**Kane Harris**  
**Annika Hartmann**  
**Ariana Howlett**  
**Ivy Howlett**  
**Alexis O'Leary**  
**Lilly Oliver**  
**Levi Robinson**  
**Xavier Scott**  
**Samuel Stafa**  
**Heidi Watkins**  
**Halle Watling**

**Saturday 6 November, 11am**

**Neve Boughton**  
**Darcy Campbell**  
**Deana Campbell**  
**Joseph Davies**  
**River Gresham**  
**Brooke Lucas**  
**Blake McGrath**  
**Mackenzie McGrath**  
**Harly Newell**  
**Coby Palmer**  
**Jack Simpson**  
**Ava Wensley**  
**Kody Wensley**  
**William Whitcombe**

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for adults and older children who seek Jesus and feel drawn to the Catholic faith. Each journey is individual but generally the process of Christian Initiation has three main times: a time of enquiry, a time of deepening and conversion, and a time of celebration. For someone who is not baptized, there are four stages in the journey of Christian Initiation for Adults, with a special ceremony of "rite" taking the person from one stage to the next. These ceremonies or "rites" are celebrated in the presence of the faith community. The four stages are *Pre-Catechumen*, *Catechumenate*, *Pre-Purification and Enlightenment* and *Mystagogia*.

The Pre-Catechumen stage is a time for inquiry and introduction to gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith. Participants will have the chance to enquire about the Catholic faith; ask about the process of Christian Initiation; spend some time sharing with other Catholics; meet Jesus in the Scriptures; listen, reflect and decide. For those participants who wish to continue, this first stage concludes with the celebration of the **Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens**.

*Tahnee Flaws has been working with Fr Anthony during the Pre-Catechumen stage and this weekend she will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens at 10am Mass in Singleton. Please keep Tahnee in your prayers as she continues her RCIA journey. If you, or someone you know, would like more information on the RCIA process, please contact the Parish Office.*

## 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 or have been a casual contact of someone with COVID – 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.

