

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

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

**23 January 2022**

**First Reading**

**Neh 8:2-6, 8-10**

*A reading from the prophet Nehemiah.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63**

**(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

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 precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**1 Cor 12:12-14, 27**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. (SHORTER FORM)*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**See Lk 4:18**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

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

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

**You are Accepted**

*The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.*

*But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to **relax!!** Holiness is not a matter of our **striving**, but of **accepting** that we are **accepted** by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.*

*How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.*

*We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.*

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

**1st Reading:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 12:31 - 13:13

**Gospel:** Lk 4:21-30



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Sr Mary Markham, Mick McCrone, David Patton, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, 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.**

**Anniversaries:** Mary Munzenberger. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

**Baptisms:** Adalyn Hunter (Glendonbrook). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Parish Contacts**

Parish Priest	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Deacon	<b>Rev Solomon Okovido</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: <a href="mailto:solomon.okovido@mn.catholic.org.au">solomon.okovido@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>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>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 Ferne Owen</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 30 JANUARY 2022**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke		J Dries		
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	M Dagg	E Janssen	
<b>Readers</b>	C Trunk C Szumilas	K Ingold	P Boyd	B Drayton R Gee	N Janssen H Janssen T Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	S Bates		E Janssen	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	S McAlister M Thomas	T Ernst	M Jones H Ruigrok			
<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**

*Fr Thomas is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Mass. Please speak with him before Mass.*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>24 January</b> <b>St Francis de Sales</b>	<b>25 January</b> <b>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</b>	<b>26 January</b> <b>AUSTRALIA DAY</b>	<b>27 January</b> <i>St Timothy &amp; Titus</i> <i>St Angela Merici</i>	<b>28 January</b> <b>St Thomas Aquinas</b>	<b>29 January</b>	<b>30 January</b> <b>4th SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR C</b>
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</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 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>9.20am</u> Liturgy of Word St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</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.

## **Changes to COVID-19 Restrictions**

Reduced COVID-19 restrictions are now in place. When attending a Place of Worship, you will still need to check in using the Service NSW QR code or place your name on the sheet. Face masks **ARE MANDATORY**. The density limits have been removed meaning that there is no limit to the number of people who can be in the church, but with threat of the virus currently active in our community, it is advisable to maintain social distancing from those you don't live with. Please continue to monitor for any symptoms and stay home if you are unwell or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

## **Changes to Mass times**

Mass in Singleton on Tuesday 25 January WILL BE said at 6pm as the Mayor's Reception has been cancelled.

Mass on Australia Day in Singleton (Weds 26 January) will be changed from 9.20am to 6pm in Singleton as Fr Thomas will give the blessing at the Australia Day celebrations.

## **Holy Water Dispensers**

Automatic Holy Water dispensers have been installed at the entrance of each church to ensure it can be safely accessed without risk. The presence of Holy Water in door stoups is presently not permitted as it presents a high risk to parishioners and visitors.

To use the dispenser, simply place your cupped hand under the dispenser to receive some Holy Water and then bless yourself. Any excess can be tipped into the receptacle below. There is no need to touch the dispenser. You can then sanitise as normal as you enter the church.



## **Singleton Parish Rosters**

Blank rosters for 7am, 10am and 6pm will be placed on the noticeboards in St Patrick's Church this weekend for current and new helpers to place their names on. Many spots have been left vacant as volunteers leave our Parish or are no longer able to help. By volunteering at least once a month at Mass you are contributing to our liturgical celebrations and sharing the load. The 10am roster also includes Counters. If you are interested in counting mass collections at the office on Tuesdays, please contact the parish office. You would be required from 9.30am for up to an hour.

All volunteers need to complete a Volunteer Registration Form if they are not already registered. This a Diocesan requirement. Not all volunteer positions require WWCC or National Criminal History Checks.

## **Hope Tree and Christmas Collection 2021**

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Christmas Collection or the Hope Tree Collection. The Hope Tree Group was able to donate \$1700 to Ratheesh to make the repairs to his bike and purchase a new computer.

## **Branxton Cemetery Volunteers**

Thank you to the parish volunteers who worked so painstakingly mowing and tidying St Brigid's Cemetery for Christmas visitors. If you would like to join a group of volunteers for on-going maintenance of the cemetery, please contact the parish office. A meeting will be organised in the new year.

## **Parish Fiesta Raffle**

Our Sto. Nino Fiesta is fast approaching, to register your attendance at the luncheon after 10am Mass on Sunday 13 February 2022 please place your name on the list at the church or ring the parish office.

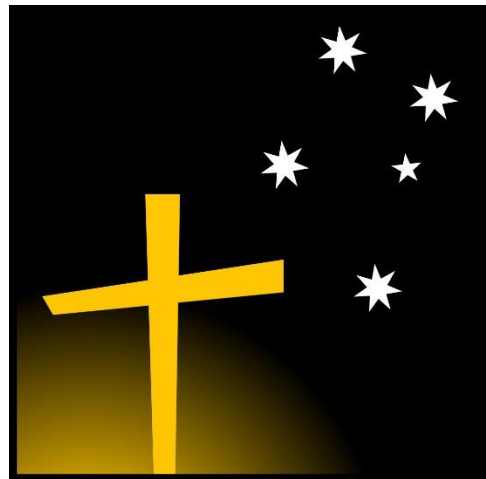
and raffle tickets are now on sale. Proceeds will be donated to St. Patrick's Parish for religious articles for the church. Tickets are \$1.00 each and available at Mass or at the Parish Office. The draw will take place at our Parish Fiesta.

Major prizes:

- Circulon Non-stick Triple Skillet Pack Value- \$399.95
- Eufy (Anker) Homevac S11 lite cordless stick vacuum cleaner Value - \$399.00
- Living Essentials 6 Lt Multi-Function Pressure Cooker
- Kenwood Blend - Fresh 2L Blender Value - \$129.00
- And many more consolation prizes!!!

## **Prayer for Tonga – Caritas Appeal**

Tonga is reeling after a violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications, and blanketed the country in ash and rock. Roads, bridges, and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater. Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to make your donation.



## **COLLECT FOR AUSTRALIA DAY**

*Grant we pray, O Lord our God,  
that as the cross shines in our southern skies,  
so may Christ bring light to our nation,  
to its people old and new  
and by saving grace, transform our lives.*

# Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest

## GUIDELINES FOR THE DIOCESES OF AUSTRALIA

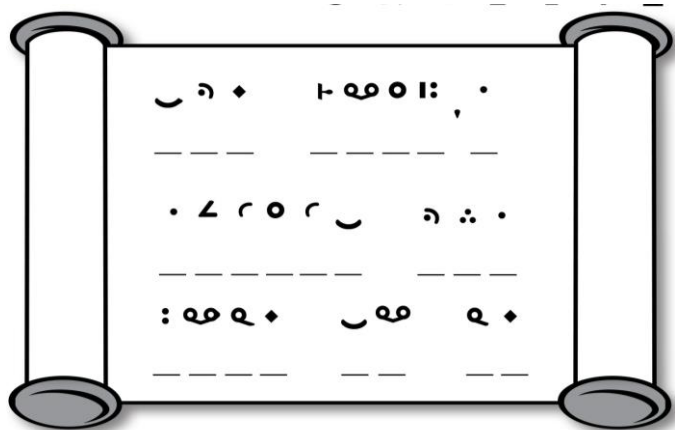
### INTRODUCTION

1. The Sunday Eucharist is the centre of our lives for the Eucharist makes us all that we are and hope to be. On every continent, and in places such as the Pacific Islands, growing numbers of Catholic communities are deprived of the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, at times for extended periods, owing to a scarcity of priests.
2. Over recent years, the Church in many parts of Australia has been experiencing a decline in the number of priests. Parish communities are not always assured of the weekly celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, "the primary and indispensable source" of "the true Christian spirit." The lack of a priest and the need for Sunday worship in that situation is nothing new in Australia, especially in rural communities. Today, in addition to a growing Catholic population with fewer and older priests, and population shifts from rural to city centres, other kinds of pastoral situations present themselves. Christians in the armed forces, prisons, hospitals, and senior citizens' and nursing homes are unable to celebrate the Sunday Mass. In all these developments, the ministry of the priest continues to be essential for the life of the Church.
3. The Mass remains the proper way of celebrating Sunday, and other celebrations can never equal or replace it. Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest enable the continuance of a community's Sunday worship, but they are never to be used where it would be feasible for the faithful to participate in the celebration of the Sunday Mass.
4. Liturgy is the celebration of the whole Church. Christ is always present to his Church: in the assembly of the faithful gathered in his name, in the proclamation of the Word, in the person of the minister, and above all, in the eucharistic elements. The Christian community that comes together on Sunday to give God praise and thanks is, by its union with the bishop, united with the whole Church assembling on Sunday. Communities deprived of the Eucharist and of its ordained ministers are not cut off from the Church. This unity is maintained and celebrated in Sunday assemblies when there is no priest to preside over the assembly.
5. The Australian Catholic Bishops recognise the distress caused by the present pastoral situation and set forth these Guidelines and accompanying Pastoral Manual to ensure "in the best way possible, and in every situation, the Christian celebration of Sunday" in this emergency situation. Although we cannot accept as normal a situation in which the community is deprived of the eucharistic celebration, the Bishops seek to foster the preservation and growth of the faith of communities unable to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist on particular occasions or on a regular basis. Individual Bishops are entrusted with implementation of these guidelines, and should, in view of the conditions of the place and circumstances of their people, determine more precisely the details of the celebrations.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops' Committee for Liturgy

November 2002



### DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
∴	⚡	:		◆	∞	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩

## Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. You must wear a **MASK** at Mass.
2. If you are sick or have been a 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 when you enter.
6. Where possible, maintain **1.5m physical distancing**
7. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
8. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
9. **SINGING** is permitted at Mass.

