

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

30 January 2022

First Reading **Jer 1:4-5, 17-19**
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

So now brace yourself for action.

Stand up and tell them all I command you.

Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.

I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people.

They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15

(R.) I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **(R.)**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **(R.)**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help. **(R.)**

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Cor 13:4-13**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. (SHORTER FORM)

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of

languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

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 4:21-30**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

God-given Identity

Nazara was a village of 300-400 people and it had a small town mentality. The inhabitants were enraged when Jesus found good precedent for extending his saving mission to foreigners outside the community of the Chosen People. Jesus embodied the boundary-breaking nature of God's grace.

Many Christians recite the old formula: 'No salvation outside the Church.' But we Catholics believe that, by responding to God's (often anonymous) grace, a person can lead a good life which prepares them for heavenly glory.

This means that the billions around the world who will never hear the Gospel, or who hear it distorted through the megaphone of an alien culture, can be saved. There is no limit/boundary to the Merciful God's finding a way into the hearts of all human beings.

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for our graced privilege of being members of the Church, nourished within it by the Sacraments and the Gospel, but whose boundaries can never circumscribe the mercy of God.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Save us, O Lord our God!

And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Word of God Sunday, Year C

1st Reading: Is 6:1-8**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 15:1-11**Gospel:** Lk 5:1-11

Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, 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: Cecil Crouch. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

Baptisms: Riley Bates (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Deacon	Rev Solomon Okovido	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: solomon.okovido@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 Ferne Owen	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 6 FEBRUARY 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke		D Jarrett S Wheeler		
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	L Pozywio	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	P Goodwin	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	T Wells	M Cunningham	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	J Gorczyca				
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

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31 January St John Bosco	1 February	2 February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	3 February <i>St Blaise</i> <i>St Ansgar</i>	4 February	5 February St Agatha	6 February WORD OF GOD SUNDAY
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Liturgy of Word 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 Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Liturgy of Word St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Liturgy of Word 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.

CURRENT 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**. Welcomers are in charge of ensuring everyone complies with the Public Health Orders. 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.

First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 5 February 2022 at 9.20am to pray for the souls of

- † Warren Deaves
- † Patricia Behringer
- † Mick Gall
- † Kay Hungerford
- † Brian Tierney

All are welcome to attend. If you have any queries, please contact Elaine Thomas on 0432 870012.

Senior Singles Group

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 8 February 2022 from 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. For more information, please contact Margaret Dagg on 6573 2776.

Singleton Parish Rosters

There are still spots available on the rosters for 7am, 10am and 6pm on the noticeboards in St Patrick's Church 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 is a Diocesan requirement. Not all volunteer positions require WWCC or National Criminal History Checks.

Parish Fiesta 2022

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.

Parish Fiesta 2022 - Raffle

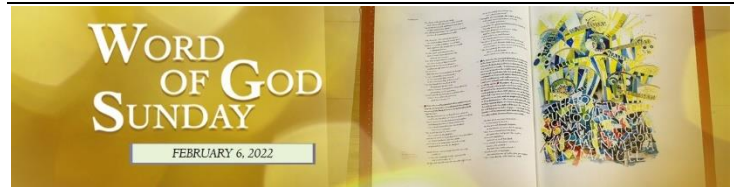
In conjunction with the Parish Fiesta, raffle tickets are now on sale. Proceeds will be donated to St. Patrick's Parish for religious articles for the church. Tickets are \$1.00 each and available at Mass or at the Parish Office. The draw will take place at our Parish Fiesta.

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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free to make your donation.



Word of God Sunday – 6 February 2022

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 6 in 2022. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

When Jesus began teaching at the Jewish meeting places, people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things he said. Complete the sentences of things that Jesus said during his ministry.

Thy _____ come, thy _____ be _____.

A good _____ cannot produce bad _____.

I am the _____ of life, he who _____ to _____

shall not _____.

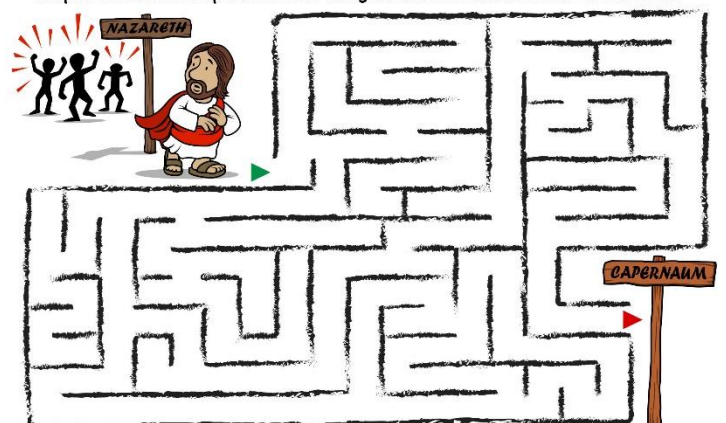
Blessed are the meek, _____

inherit the _____.

I am the light _____.



Help Jesus travel to Capernaum after being chased from his home town of Nazareth.



2021 National Church Life Survey

St Patrick's Singleton, St Paul's Glendonbrook, Immaculate Conception Broke and St Catherine's Greta churches have been chosen by NCLS to take part in the seventh nationwide survey of churchgoers – the 2021 National Church Life Survey. The survey was to take place across Australian churches in late 2021, the same year as the National Census however with the impacts of COVID-19, the survey was postponed until February 2022.

As churches respond to social changes, it is more important than ever to have an informed approach to modern day ministry. For over 30 years, the National Church Life Survey has tracked the LIFE of the Australian Church, the lives and hopes of people who attend churches all around the country.

'Life to the full' is the philosophy behind the survey, aiming to encouraging fullness of vitality in churches, leaders, and communities.

Life in Churches: The NCLS enables churches to review their health and vitality, provides an evidence base to make wise decisions and inspire new directions for the future.

Life in Leadership: The NCLS examines the practices of church leaders and provides insights into how they can be effective and sustainable; developing a culture of empowering leadership.

Life in Communities: The NCLS recognises the life and times of Australians, how they approach matters of faith; and provides tools so churches and communities can better connect.

Our Parishes welcome your feedback so on 6 February 2022 please collect your **Attender Survey**, take it home to complete and return it by **27 February 2022**. There are children's surveys available – parents are asked to assist their child to complete their survey.

You are also able to complete the Attender Survey online at attendersurvey.ncls.org.au

When completing online you will need one of the Church Codes below:

TAN04001	St Patrick's Catholic Church Singleton
TAN04002	St Paul's Catholic Church Glendonbrook
TAN04003	St Catherine's Catholic Greta
TAN04004	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

It is optional to complete the *Return Slip*. The surveys are completely anonymous.

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.

