

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

13 February 2022

First Reading Jer 17:5-8
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ

has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:17, 20-26
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

Not a Celestial Joke!

Blessed are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.' *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are blessed in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that other world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus' credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father's will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

1st Reading: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9,12-13,22-23

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Sr Mary Markham, Mick McCrone, John Ottery, 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: Anne Archinal, Patricia Behringer, Harold Stocks, Ate Salve Stuart, Cecil Thomas, Daisy Tierney. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Ollie Wangmann (Greta). **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 Omeiza 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		singletonbranxton @parish_sb
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish	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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish	Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335 Contact: 0407 381 525
	Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 20 FEBRUARY 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke		J Dries		G McMillian J Bray
Commentator		D Clarke				
Readers	M Thomas C Szumilus	L Pozywio D Clarke	C Spiteri D Thompson	J Bray	Gresham Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	M Spinks			2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Partridge	G Wilton				
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
14 February <i>St Cyril & Methodius</i>	15 February	16 February	17 February <i>The Seven Founders of the Servites Order</i>	18 February	19 February	20 February 7 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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 9.20am Mass Mercy Home	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm LOTW 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 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.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Reduced COVID-19 restrictions are now in place. When attending a Place of Worship, you will 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 and take a rapid antigen test.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 18 February 2022. All items for the bulletin need to be with the Office by Wednesday 16 Feb to allow for printing on Thursday. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Singleton Parish Rosters

There are MANY spots still available on the rosters for 7am, 10am and 6pm on the noticeboards in St Patrick's Church. 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.

Welcoming is a very important job at Mass, particularly at the moment with COVID-19 requirements for attendees to check-in. 7am and 6pm need volunteers for this ministry.

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.

You will be contacted by the Parish office if you need to complete a Volunteer Registration Form.

Greta Cleaning Roster

Volunteers are required for the cleaning roster at St Catherine's Church in Greta. Please see Lydia to have your name put on the roster.

Statues in St Catherine's Church Greta

St Catherine's Church in Greta has some statues on the altar which need refreshing. Donations are being sought to assist with the cost of having this done. There will be a donation box at the entrance to the church. Please see Lydia for more information. Thank you to the two gentlemen who paid to have three smaller statues refreshed. One is back in the church already, while the other two are still being worked on.

St Brigid's Branxton Caritas Lunch

The St Brigid's Branxton Caritas Group invite you to attend the first parish luncheon for 2022 on Friday 4 March 2022 from 12pm at the Royal Federal Hotel, Branxton. All are welcome. Please phone Helen on 4938 1467 by 28 February to book.

"Does God ever allow anyone who trusts in Him to be confounded?" Mary MacKillop 1876

Lenten Reflection Booklets - Remember

Remember is a 72-page full colour booklet containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings. The book also features beautiful religious artworks from the masters such as Botticelli, Titian, Tissot, Murillo, Allori, Fra Angelico and Melone with enlightening Artwork Spotlight reflections written by the amazing Monsignor Graham Schmitzer. The short daily reflections have been written by 21 fantastic clergy, religious and lay contributors from around the world.

The booklets are available for purchase at each church for \$7 each. Please use the envelope inside the booklet to place your payment in the collection basket.

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

For more information contact

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Mission Opportunities Overseas

Getting involved in people centred Human Development as an invited guest means humbly putting your person and your skills at the disposal of your trusted hosts. You will be a stranger in the place and for six months a Pilgrim learning the wisdom of local ways.



Palms Australia

Palms Australia has 60 years of experience preparing and assisting Australians to learn and pass on their skills in another culture. Is one of our assignments your opportunity to Reach Beyond? **Find Out More:** <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/> or Phone: 0422 742 567.

Join our online forum at 5.30pm AEDT on Thursday 17 March and engage with a panel of Palms most experienced Program Participants. Register here <https://palms.org.au/event/zoom-information-session/>

Synod of Bishop's

Have you taken up Pope Francis' invitation to participate in a global conversation about the Catholic Church? You still have three weeks to make a submission to your local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality, calling the People of God to walk together in our mission as Christians. Submissions close on February 27. Find out more at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Pride Mass

Our Diocese is hosting a Pride Mass for LGBTIQ people and their families, friends, and supporters at 6.00pm on Friday, 4 March 2022 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill. For more information, contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

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.

PLEASE PLACE RETURNED SLIPS IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. If you are sick or have been a contact of someone with COVID– stay **HOME** and get tested.
2. You must wear a **MASK** at Mass.
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 with your mask on.

