

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

20 February 2022

First Reading

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

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.
(R.)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.
(R.)

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 15:45-49

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Learning the Language of Heaven

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus is the Word of God in human history. Jesus is the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become really tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but communicado, holy communicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful
with me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

1st Reading: Sir 27:4-7

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:54-58

Gospel: Lk 6:39-45



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: Neta Ernst and Edna Tierney. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Weddings: Carlo Bondoc and Jessica Abellana (26 Feb at Bimbadgen Estate). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

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		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 27 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		
Commentator		L Gorczyca			H Rapp	
Readers	C Murray C Trunk	L Pozywio	H Ruigrok S Bates		H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	E Thomas			2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J & S Stafa	P Bridge				
Rosary Leader		L Gorczyca				

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
21 February <i>St Peter Damian</i>	22 February <i>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE</i>	23 February <i>St Polycarp</i>	24 February	25 February	26 February	27 February 8 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 Liturgy of Word St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass Singleton 6.00pm LOTW Glendonbrook	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 need to **CHECK IN** using the Service NSW QR code or place your name on the sheet. Face masks **ARE MANDATORY**. Welcomers oversee 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 open on Monday 21 February 2022 and closed on Tuesday 22 February 2022. Thank you for your assistance and understanding. Counters can come on Monday.

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. 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 now 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.

Singleton Parish – Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars and place your name on the sheets on the Noticeboard for the following events in Singleton Parish:

Shrove Tuesday – pancakes will be cooked for supper after 6pm Mass on Tuesday 1 March 2022. Names are needed for catering.

St Patrick's Day – dinner is being organised to celebrate our patron saint's day on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 6pm in Club Singleton. Names are needed for booking. Mass will be said at 5.30pm that evening to allow time to get to dinner.

Sto. Nino Fiesta Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped at our Parish Fiesta last weekend! We raised \$1873.60 to go towards new items for the altar. Our major raffle winners were: Adela & Naomi Chiong, Julie Dries, Stephen & Meriam Canoy and Kerry Dries.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer for 2022 host countries are England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. We will come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded, listen to the fear of a child refugee and learn to see the context of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith society in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Services will be held on Friday 4 March 2022. All welcome!

The Branxton service will be at 10am in Branxton Uniting Church, 9 Drinan St, Branxton. There will be cuppa after the service, please bring a plate to share.

The Singleton service will be at 7pm in the Salvation Army Church, 4 York Street, Singleton.

2022 Parish Sacramental Programs

Expressions of interest are now being taken for Singleton and Branxton Parish children in year 3 or above, who have been baptised in the catholic church, and wish to receive the *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* this year. Please email the parish office with your child's name and a contact number and you will be sent details of the information session when it is available. Email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

If your child is not baptised but they wish to take part in the program this year, please contact the Parish Office.

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.

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 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.

