

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

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

**27 February 2022**

**First Reading**

**Sir 27:4-7**

*A reading from the first book of Ecclesiasticus.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2**

**(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**1 Cor 15:54-58**

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Phil 2:15-16**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Lk 6:39-45**

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

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

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



**REFLECTION** by Fr Michael Tate  
**Disciples or Mask-Wearers?**

*In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.*

*He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality.*

*For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts our vision. We should not rush to judgment.*

*The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)*

*This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.*

*Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'*

*We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'*

*We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.*

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**PROJECT COMPASSION  
SUNDAY**

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

The Lord became my protector.  
He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
he saved me because he delighted in me.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful  
with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord  
Most High.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

**1st Reading:** Dt 26:4-10

**2nd Reading:** Rom 10:8-13

**Gospel:** Lk 4:1-13



# 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, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Victor Trunk. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Gloria Trunk, John Armstrong and Lorna O'Hara. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptism:** Grace Stewart (Branxton) and Evelyn Dever (Greta). **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 Omeiza 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>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 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 6 MARCH 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		John Bray
<b>Commentator</b>		D Clarke				
<b>Readers</b>	J Patridge S Stafa	L Harrison	J Tindale E Thomas		P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		D Clarke	C Langford		M Cunningham	2 Welcomers are required each week.
<b>Offertory</b>	S McAlister M Thomas	G Wilton				
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		D Clarke				

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
28 February	1 March	2 March ASH WEDNESDAY	3 March	4 March St Casimir	5 March	6 March 1st SUNDAY OF LENT
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 9.45am Adoration St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am LOTW 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta	6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	9.20am Liturgy of Word St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Liturgy of Word 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.

## **Relaxing of COVID-19 Restrictions**

Thank you to everyone for playing your part in keeping our community safe from COVID-19 by complying with the NSW Health restrictions over the last two years. You are no longer required to check-in when at the church. The QR codes will remain, and you are welcome to use them. Masks are no longer mandatory in places of worship. NSW Health strongly advises people get fully vaccinated and wear a face mask where they cannot physically distance.

Please continue to monitor for symptoms and if you are unwell, please stay home and take a rapid antigen test. If you test positive you must register your test result with Services NSW.

## **Ash Wednesday Mass Times**

Mass will be said for Ash Wednesday on 2 March 2022 at 9.20am in St Patrick's Singleton and 6.00pm in St Brigid's Branxton.

## **First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's**

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

† Alida Ruigrok

† Samuel Esperandes

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

## **Lenten Reflection Groups**

A Lenten Reflection group will meet in Singleton each Wednesday after 9.20am Mass. All are welcome to join the group.

If you wish to attend a reflection group in Branxton-Greta please place your name on the list at the back of the church or contact Peter Conroy.

## **Way of the Cross During Lent**

The Way of the Cross will be held in St Brigid's Church Branxton after Thursday morning Mass and in St Patrick's Church Singleton after Friday morning Mass. All are welcome to attend in preparation for Easter.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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.***

## **National Church Life Survey**

Please return your survey forms this weekend. They can be placed in the box at the back of the church. You can also complete the survey online at [attendersurvey.ncls.org.au](http://attendersurvey.ncls.org.au) using the following codes for each church:

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



## Project Compassion Sunday 26 & 27 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and *For All Future Generations*.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said,  
"The future starts today, not tomorrow."



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.



### The Holy See

#### MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2022

*"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (*kairós*), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).

#### 1. Sowing and reaping

In these words, the Apostle evokes the image of sowing and reaping, so dear to Jesus (cf. Mt 13). Saint Paul speaks to us of a *kairós*: an opportune time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. What is this "opportune time" for us? Lent is certainly such an opportune time, but so is our entire existence, of which Lent is in some way an image. All too often in our lives, greed, pride and the desire to possess, accumulate and consume have the upper hand, as we see from the story of the foolish man in the Gospel parable, who thought his life was safe and secure because of the abundant grain and goods he had stored in his barns (cf. Lk 12:16-21). Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness.

The first to sow is God himself, who with great generosity "continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family" (Fratelli Tutti, 54). During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his working (cf. Jas 1:21) and bears fruit in our lives. This brings us great joy, yet even more, it summons us to become God's co-workers (cf. 1 Cor 3:9). By making good use of the present time (cf. Eph 5:16), we too can sow seeds of goodness. This call to sow goodness should not be seen as a burden but a grace, whereby the Creator wishes us to be actively united with his own bountiful goodness.

What about the harvest? Do we not sow seeds in order to reap a harvest? Of course! Saint Paul points to the close relationship between sowing and reaping when he says: "Anyone who sows sparsely will reap sparsely as well, and anyone who sows generously will reap generously as well" (2 Cor 9:6). But what kind of harvest are we talking about? A first fruit of the goodness we sow appears in ourselves and our daily lives, even in our little acts of kindness. In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no "generous effort" will ever be lost (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 279). Just as we recognize a tree by its fruits (cf. Mt 7:16, 20), so a life full of good deeds radiates light (cf. Mt 5:14-16) and carries the fragrance of Christ to the world (cf. 2 Cor 2:15). Serving God in freedom from sin brings forth fruits of sanctification for the salvation of all (cf. Rom 6:22).

*To be continued next week*