

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

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

6 March 2022

First Reading

Dt 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **(R.)**

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. **(R.)**

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. **(R.)**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you

will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Lk 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Temptations

After his baptism Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where the devil put him to the test. Jesus was offered three shortcuts to his living in harmony with the will of his Heavenly Father.

First, when he was hungry there would be bread out of stones.

Second, when he wanted to change the world he could have absolute political power.

Third, when he needed to take risks, angels would keep him safe.

Our baptism does not insulate us from the same threefold pattern of temptation. Do you find yourself saying:

I want the whole world to change to satisfy me, or

I want to exercise power over others, or

I want to take stupid risks and come out unharmed, or all three!

What must we do when such temptations assail us?

Realise that such temptations are much less powerful than they seem – the last gasp of the vanquished devil. Imitate Jesus in going to the Scriptures, preferably the Gospels, in order to have the words to hurl back at the devil as you are tested.

We could pause to make a Lenten resolution to read a Gospel, and to do so confident of our Baptismal identity as beloved daughters and sons of God.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C
1st Reading: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18
2nd Reading: Phil 3:17-4:1
Gospel: Lk 9:28-36



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: Barry Goodwin, Patricia Lynch, Jane Stocks, Teddy Trunk, Ben Wyer. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

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

Baptism: Gordon Heien (Branxton), Noah O'Sullivan (Greta), Charlie Nichols and Mason Felsch (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 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	<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 13 MARCH 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries	Janssen Family	J Brackenrig
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilus	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe D Cantrall	N Janssen H Janssen T Janssen	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	T Ernst				
Rosary Leader		C Miller				

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 after Mass. Please speak with him before Mass.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7 March <i>Sts Perpetua & Felicity</i>	8 March <i>St John of God</i>	9 March <i>St Frances of Rome</i>	10 March	11 March	12 March	13 March 2 nd 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 St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 6.00pm LOTW Broke	7.00am LOTW 10.00am Mass 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 Mass 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.

Stay Safe with COVID-19

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.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish office will be open 12pm to 3pm on Tuesday 8 March 2022.

Visits to the Homebound

Those who are homebound and wish to be anointed or a clergy visit, please contact the Parish Office on 5507 4048.

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.

National Church Life Survey

This is the last weekend to return your survey forms. They can be placed in the box at the back of the church.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch in the Albion Hotel Restaurant on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 12.00pm. New members always welcome.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. For more information, please contact Elaine on 0432 870012.

Singleton Parish – Upcoming Events

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

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.

Vinnies Flood Appeal

Many Australians need your help today. Your donation can provide:

- Money for groceries, removing a major stress
- Clothing and essentials such as blankets and toiletries
- Support to recover, helping families to move back home and replace damaged furniture.

Donate online today at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeal>

Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal



The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Prayer for the Appointment of Our New Bishop

Shepherding God

you reveal your way of unfailing love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit who moves through this great south land, inspire the choice of our new Bishop, empower his 'yes' and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us.



Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia.

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 or by visiting 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 – continued from last week

In truth, we see only a small portion of the fruits of what we sow, since, according to the Gospel proverb, "one sows, while another reaps" (Jn 4:37). When we sow for the benefit of others, we share in God's own benevolent love: "it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others" (Fratelli Tutti, 196). Sowing goodness for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness, and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God's benevolent plan.

The word of God broadens and elevates our vision: it tells us that the real harvest is eschatological, the harvest of the last, undying day. The mature fruit of our lives and actions is "fruit for eternal life" (Jn 4:36), our "treasure in heaven" (Lk 12:33; 18:22). Jesus himself uses the image of the seed that dies in the ground in order to bear fruit as a symbol of the mystery of his death and resurrection (cf. Jn 12:24); while Saint Paul uses the same image to speak of the resurrection of our bodies: "What is sown is perishable, but what is raised is imperishable; what is sown is contemptible but what is raised is glorious; what is sown is weak, but what is raised is powerful; what is sown is a natural body, and what is raised is a spiritual body" (1 Cor 15:42-44). The hope of resurrection is the great light that the risen Christ brings to the world, for "if our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are of all people the most pitiable. In fact, however, Christ has been raised from the dead, as the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:19-20). Those who are intimately united to him in love "by dying a death like his" (Rom 6:5) will also be united to his resurrection for eternal life (cf. Jn 5:29). "Then the upright will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt 13:43).

2. Let us not grow tired of doing good"

Christ's resurrection enlivens earthly hopes with the "great hope" of eternal life, planting the seed of salvation in our present time (cf. BENEDICT XVI, Spe Salvi, 3; 7). Bitter disappointment at shattered dreams, deep concern for the challenges ahead and discouragement at the poverty of our resources, can make us tempted to seek refuge in self-centredness and indifference to the suffering of others. Indeed, even our best resources have their limitations: "Youths grow tired and weary, the young stumble and fall" (Is 40:30). Yet God "gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless... Those who hope in the Lord will regain their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; though they run they will not grow weary, though they walk they will never tire" (Is 40:29, 31). The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord (cf. 1 Pet 1:21), since only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ (cf. Heb 12:2) will we be able to respond to the Apostle's appeal, "Let us never grow tired of doing good" (Gal 6:9).

To be continued next week