

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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**27 March 2022**

**First Reading**

**Jos 5:9-12**

*A reading from the book of Joshua.*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

**Second Reading**

**2 Cor 5:17-21**

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk 15:18**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and  
against you.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel**

**Lk 15:1-3, 11-32**

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

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. "When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

**Truth and Reconciliation**

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable.

So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, 'You were lost and now you are found.'

That is Jesus' portrayal of his heavenly Father's relationship with us.

Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God's forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God's relationship with us?

More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far-off place, sometimes quite deliberately.

We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, 'You were lost but now you are found.' That is worth a celebration!

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

**1st Reading:** Is 43:16-21

**2nd Reading:** Phil 3:8-14

**Gospel:** Jn 8:1-11



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Sr Mary Markham, Warren 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.**

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

**Anniversaries:** Frank McAlister, Arlene Thomas, Glenyce Wilton. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Baptism:** Zander McFarlane (Branxton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Weddings:** Marcelo Cowdrill and Elisabeth Bampton (Weds 30 March 2pm St Patrick's Church). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

**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 3 APRIL 2022**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Bray G McMillan
<b>Commentator</b>		D Clarke	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas C Szumilus	L Gorczyca	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		D Clarke	C Langford		M Cunningham	<b>Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	J & S Stafa	G Wilton				
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		Cecilia 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 28 March	Tuesday 29 March	Wednesday 30 March	Thursday 31 March	Friday 1 April	Saturday 2 April St Francis of Paola	Sunday 3 April 5 <sup>TH</sup> 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 LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's 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 Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am LOTW 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.

## **Staying 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.

## **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.

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

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 2 April 2022 at 9.20am to pray for the souls of anyone whose anniversary occurs this month. All are welcome to attend. If you have any queries, please contact Elaine Thomas on 0432 870012.

## **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.

## **BRANXTON PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING**

30 March 2022, 5.30pm St Catherine's Church, Greta

## **SINGLETON PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING**

6 April 2022, 5.30pm St Patrick's Church, Singleton

Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate if they weren't baptised in Branxton or Singleton Parishes. If you don't have a copy you will need to contact the parish where they were baptised.

## **Chrism Mass**

All the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7pm for the blessing and consecration of Sacred Oils with Bishop Danny Meagher, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney presiding. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Victor Peters Suite.

As there are currently no COVID-19 capacity limits, everyone who is feeling well and symptom-free is welcome. Further details are available at <https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/> article of 22/03/2022 'Liturgy Matters: Chrism Mass is all Systems Go'. If changes need to be made, they will be updated on this site.

## **Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time**

Daylight Savings Time will end at 3am on Sunday 3 April. Singleton Parish evening Masses will change to **5pm** from **Tuesday 5 April 2021**. This includes Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evening, Broke and Glendonbrook masses.

**Branxton Vigil Mass will remain at 6pm.**



## **Silver and Golden Wedding Jubilees**

Five years after the publication of Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris laetitia, Pope Francis launched the year of "Amoris Laetitia Family". The celebration lasts from 19 March 2021 to 26 June 2022, the day of the X World Meeting of Families in Rome.

The Branxton and Singleton Parishes would like to honour those couples who are celebrating 25 or 50 years marriage during this period. Please contact the Parish office to register your interest. The Parish Pastoral Councils will be hosting family events after Mass at Branxton on Saturday 25 June and in Singleton on Sunday 26 June. **Mark your diaries and watch the bulletin for more details!**

## **Singleton Parish Raffle**

A raffle will be run by Singleton Parish to raise funds to purchase new whipper snippers for the maintenance of parish grounds. Tickets are \$2.00 each and available at Mass from Julie Dries. First prize is \$200, second prize \$100 and there will be a consolation prize.

## **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](http://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.*



**Rosalie 44**, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope *For All Future Generations*.**

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](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413



# Lent and Holy Week

## Stations of the Cross

St Patrick's, Singleton after 9.20am Mass Fridays

St Brigid's, Branxton after 9.20am Thursdays

## Reconciliation

St Brigid's Church, Branxton

Wednesday 6 April 2022, 6pm

St Patrick's Church, Singleton

Thursday 7 April 2022, 5.30pm (after Mass)

## Chrism Mass – 12 April

Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Hamilton 7.00pm

## Good Friday – 15 April

### **Stations of the Cross**

St Brigid's Branxton, 10am

St Patrick's Singleton, 11am

## Holy Saturday – 16 April

### **Easter Vigil**

St Patrick's Singleton, 6.30pm

St Brigid's Branxton, 6.30pm

## Thursday of Holy Week – 14 April

### **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

St Patrick's Singleton, 6.30pm

St Brigid's Branxton, 6.30pm

## **Passion of the Lord**

St Patrick's Singleton, 3pm

St Catherine's Greta, 3pm

## Easter Sunday – 17 April

St Catherine's Greta, 8am

St Patrick's Singleton, 10.00am

St Patrick's Singleton, 5.00pm

# Why We Do The Things We Do



Have you ever made a journey retracing the steps of an ancestor? In the early Church a tradition developed whereby Christians would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, retracing the journey that Jesus took to the Cross. Visual representations depicting the Passion of Jesus were erected along the way. In memory of this sacred path, the stations were popularised in art and as a devotional practice, encouraged especially by the Franciscans. There are fourteen stations in our modern-day devotion whereby people move from station to station, reflecting upon the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

*You can join this devotion after 9.20am Mass on Thursdays in Branxton or after 9.20am Mass on Fridays in Singleton during Lent and on the morning of Good Friday.*