

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

3 April 2022

First Reading **Is 43:16-21**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises. The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 125. R. v.3**
(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Phil 3:8-14**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith.

All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

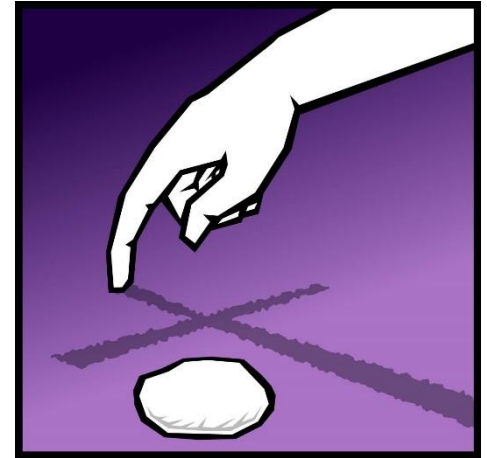
Gospel Acclamation **Jl 2:12-13**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel **Jn 8:1-11**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

The Gaze of Jesus

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in full view of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of eyes filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'look eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences?

'The eyes have it.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is
faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Has no one condemned you, woman? No
one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on,
sin no more.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Palm Sunday, Year C

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Lk 22:14-23:56



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.**

Anniversaries: Alida Ruigrok. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Weston Cahill (Branxton), Paige Cortis and Mason Fenwick (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Weddings: Adelaide Pollock and Robert Browne (Tues 5 April - Wollombi). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

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 10 APRIL 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Bray G McMillan
Commentator		L Pozywio	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	C Trunk C Murray	D Clarke	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe D Cantrall	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Pozywio	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	S McAlister M Thomas	T Ernst				
Rosary Leader		Lydia 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 after Mass. Please speak with him before Mass.

Monday 4 April St Isidore	Tuesday 5 April St Vincent Ferrer	Wednesday 6 April	Thursday 7 April St John Baptist de la Salle	Friday 8 April	Saturday 9 April	Sunday 10 April PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR C
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass 5.30pm Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm LOTW Broke	6.45am Mass 10.30am Mass 5.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton ***NOTE TIME CHANGES***
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta	6.00pm Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton	9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.30am 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.

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.

Changes to Palm Sunday Mass Times

Please note the changes in the Mass Diary on page 2 for next Sunday to accommodate the longer liturgy for Palm Sunday and Fr Thomas' travel time between Singleton and Greta.

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.



2022 Parish Sacramental Programs

Please contact the parish office if your child is in year 3 or above, has been baptised in the catholic church and wishes to receive the *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* this year. Phone 02 5507 4048 or 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.

SINGLETON PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING

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

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.

Singleton Parish Easter Church Decorations

If you would like to donate towards the Holy Week and Easter liturgy church decorations, please speak with Frieda King or bring donations to the Parish Office.

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.

Men's Group Interest Meeting

Men of the parish are invited to a meeting at the presbytery on **Thursday 7 April 2022 at 7.15pm** to gauge if there is interest in the formation of a Men's Group. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to make suggestions on how the group could function, please contact Fr Thomas or Gerard McMillan gjmcmillan51@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you there. May the Holy Spirit guide the process on the formation on the Men's Group and St Joseph intercede for us.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on **Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 12pm** in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome to meet for a chat over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild AGM

The Annual General Meeting for St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on **Wednesday 13 April at 1.30pm** in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive Singleton Heights. New members most welcome!

St Brigid's Caritas Lunch

The monthly St Brigid's Caritas lunch will be held on **Friday 22 April 2022** at the Royal Federal Hotel at 12pm. Names to Helen by 19 April 2022 by phoning 02 4938 1467. All welcome!

MacKillop Place Pilgrimage

St Brigid's Caritas is happy to announce after two years a Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place **Friday 5 August 2022** Mary MacKillop Place is complying with all Covid safe procedures as required by government and church authorities Visit will include morning tea, museum tour, gift shop, coffee shop, private prayer time in Chapel. Bus and lunch details being organised so save the date and more details later Mercia.

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.



Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province which has limited educational and job opportunities – and one of the country’s highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

With your generous support, Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water for its students.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities 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, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Lent and Holy Week

Stations of the Cross

Singleton after 9.20am Mass Fridays
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

Palm Sunday – 10 April

St Brigid’s Branxton Vigil, 6.00pm
St Patrick’s Singleton, 6.45am
St Catherine’s Greta, 8.30am
St Patrick’s Singleton, 10.30am
St Patrick’s Singleton, 5.00pm (LOTW)

Good Friday – 15 April

Stations of the Cross
St Brigid’s Branxton, 10am
St Patrick’s Singleton, 11am
Passion of the Lord
St Patrick’s Singleton, 3pm
St Catherine’s Greta, 3pm

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

Easter Sunday – 17 April

St Catherine’s Greta, 8.00am
St Patrick’s Singleton, 10.00am
St Patrick’s Singleton, 5.00pm



Amoris Laetitia
Family
Year 2021 - 2022

From March to December 2021, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life – in collaboration with the Dicastery for Communication and Vatican News – released **10 Amoris Laetitia Videos**, with the participation of Pope Francis and a number of families from different parts of the world. Starting from the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation, the Holy Father has accompanied us to rediscover the value and beauty of marriage and the family in the Church and society.

Links to these videos, accompanied by a printable guide, will be published each week for use by families from Easter Sunday and available at each church. Each guide, in addition to the words spoken by the Pope and by the families, proposes reflections and family or group activities inspired by the theme in order to facilitate the educational and spiritual journey with the families.

Among the various topics developed are the contribution of families to family ministry; love in marriage; fertility of the couple in the generation of children and in the Christian choice of adoption; vocation of families in the Church; courage in the education of children; accompaniment of family fragility and crisis; spiritual life of the family.

The hope is that this collection can truly be a service to family ministry in every part of the world. As part of the synodal journey initiated by Pope Francis, let us remember that meeting families, listening to them, and soliciting pastoral reflection among them is a concrete way to achieve that participation and communion that must be today, more than ever, the pastoral method par excellence.

The 10 Amoris Laetitia Videos initiative is a project of the “Amoris Laetitia Family” Year desired by the Holy Father Francis in preparation for the Tenth World Meeting of Families (22-26 June 2022) and organised by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.