

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

**Second Sunday of Easter Year C**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**24 April 2022**

**First Reading**

**Acts 5:12-16**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1**

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting**

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

**Second Reading**

**Rv 1:9-13, 17-19**

*A reading from the book of Apocalypse.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and

the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn 20:29**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Jn 20:19-31**

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

*The disciples did not purge their group of 'doubting Thomas'. They remained his companions, waiting for something or Someone to be revealed to him with them.*

*Doubt and questioning are a normal and proper part of being human. We should allow for this within the community of the Church. A point may come where a person may no longer remain in the Church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding Church is not the Church of this gospel story.*

*Within the companionship of the Church a doubter may hear the words: 'Peace be with you.' What sort of peace? It is that inner assurance that, in the midst of all the tribulations and the turmoil and the myriad precursor deaths which we suffer on all sorts of levels, the Conqueror of Death wants to be with us.*

*How can the Risen Lord be with us? In Holy Communion, and in those counted as least in the world. According to Matthew 25, He is those without the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care, comfort in distress. We could pause for a moment to savour that Peace which comes from faith in the Conqueror of Death and in his Real Presence in Holy Communion and in those in dire need.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Year C  
**1st Reading:** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41  
**2nd Reading:** Rv 5:11-14  
**Gospel:** Jn 21:1-19



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, John Ottery, David Patton, Jen Phillips, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, Arlo Spicer, Anne Standing, and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Mollie Bailey, Pauline O’Gorman. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

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

**Baptism:** Evelyn Trappel and Dante Nguyen (Branxton), Zac Eveleigh (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Weddings:** Anthony Jreige & Therese El-Khoury (Sun 24 April – St Patrick’s). **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	<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 @parish_sb
<b>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>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 Courtney Newman</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 1 MAY 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		<b>Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa	D Clarke	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	C Langford		M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	J Partridge	G Wilton				
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>24 April</b> ANZAC DAY	<b>26 April</b> ST MARK, EVANGELIST	<b>27 April</b> St Louis Grignon de Montfort	<b>28 April</b> St Peter Chanel	<b>29 April</b> St Catherine of Siena	<b>30 April</b> St Pius V	<b>1 May</b> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	NO MASS	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am LOTW 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am LOTW St Catherine's Greta		9.20am LOTW St Brigid's Branxton		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm LOTW 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.

## **Office Hours over Easter**

The Parish Office will be closed from 3pm Wednesday 20 April and re-open 9am Wednesday 27 April.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held after 7am Mass this Sunday to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

## **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](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.

## **Collection Plates at Mass**

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, collections plates will once again be passed around during the offertory for the first collection and during the final notices for the second. Thank you for your generous contributions. The first collection is used for the clergy of the diocese and the second collection is used at a Parish level.

## **Singleton Parish Raffle**

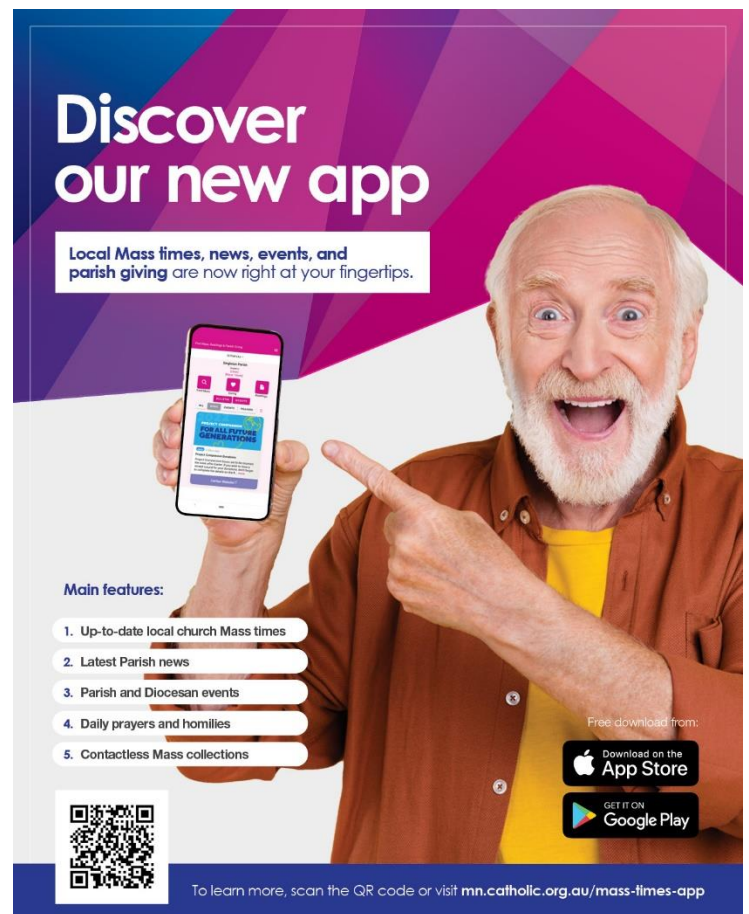
Thank you to everyone who has purchased raffle tickets and contributed to the purchase of new whipper snippers for the Singleton Parish. We now have two new ones for the grounds maintenance volunteers to use in the up-keep of St Patrick's Church, Queen Street Cemetery and the Presbytery.

## **Return Project Compassion Boxes**

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***. ***Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2022 Lenten appeal***. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***. Please return Project Compassion boxes to churches or to the Parish Office by Friday 29 April 2022.

## **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.



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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app](http://mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app)



[mn.catholic.org.au](http://mn.catholic.org.au)

## **Amoris Laetitia – Year of the Family Program**

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 starting 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. Watch the video for this week's program by scanning this QR code.



**Amoris Laetitia  
Family**  
Year 2021 - 2022



## **Silver and Golden Wedding Jubilees**

The Branxton and Singleton Parishes would like to honour those couples who are celebrating 25 or 50 years marriage during Amoris Laetitia Family Year. 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!**

## **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.*



## **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE**

### **In election statement, bishops call for 'a better kind of politics'**

Australia's Catholic bishops have called for a shakeup that focuses the country's politics on the common good of all, including – and especially – those who struggle to participate in the community.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said no one political party fully embodies Catholic social teaching. The bishops are, however, offering an election statement to encourage Catholics and people of good will to reflect on the good they can do for their community by using their vote for the good of all.

Archbishop Coleridge said "we all long for what Pope Francis calls 'a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good'".

"This 'better' politics pursues the common good of all Australians by recognising the dignity of every individual and the solidarity we all share as a national community," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"Since the last federal election we have seen the impact and the challenges of a global pandemic, floods, summers of bushfires, wild weather events and a world on edge because of military conflict.

"Foremost in the minds of many will be Australia's economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19. The societal disruptions from the pandemic have revealed significant levels of poverty and disadvantage within Australia. We need a new social contract that focuses the economy more clearly on the common good."

The statement highlights several key issues that the bishops have identified and which they encouraged readers to consider when preparing to vote.

Among them is the provision of high-quality palliative care across Australia, "to ensure that no one is pressured into choosing assisted suicide because palliative care is unavailable".

The statement advocates for vulnerable people in the community, including those in need of aged care, First Nations peoples, asylum-seekers and refugees. It calls for a government committed to the common good that will deliver a medium to long-term plan for eradicating poverty in Australia.

The bishops also say people who have a religious faith should be protected from discrimination, "including the ability to undertake activities and form religious bodies that can pursue their religious mission".

"This includes commonsense provisions to allow religious schools to preference the hiring of staff who support the school's ethos," the statement says.

Access the election statement at: [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)