

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

Third Sunday of Easter Year C

1 May 2022

First Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **(R.)**

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **(R.)**

The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rv 5: 11-14
A reading from the book of Apocalypse.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation - everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne

and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.
Alleluia!

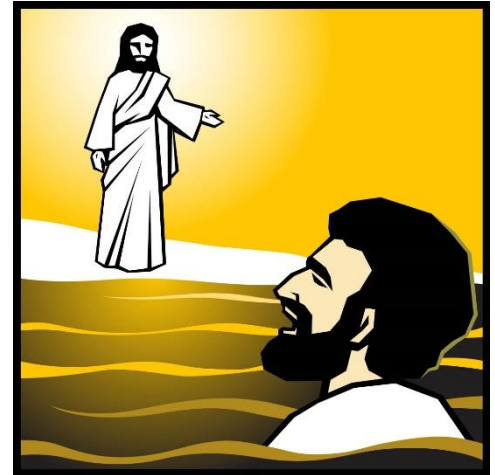
Gospel Jn 21:1-14 (shorter form)
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

You know I love you

You and I, like Peter, are enabled by grace to repent of our betrayals of Our Lord, some major, most minor, and to claim: "Lord, you know that I love you."

But, this claim has to be evidenced by concrete action. In the case of Peter it was to feed and shepherd "my lambs, my sheep." What will manifest our professed love? In the words of Father Richard Rohr, it is to love what God loves.

Of course, we have to love our fellow human beings, but leaving it there would be inadequate. "For God so loved the cosmos as to give the Son." (Jn 3:16,17) So what must we do?

Recall, Our Lord says elsewhere, "You are the Salt of the Earth." You must preserve the Earth so that it does not decay and so that it is a suitable habitation for all the creatures, including us, for whom the Earth is a common home.

He went on: "You are the Light of the Cosmos." You are the enlightened mind and the enflamed heart of the whole cosmos, enabling it to understand its existence and to love God for it.

We could pause for a moment to reflect on the words of Pope Francis: "We, the women and men of the Church, we are in the middle of a love story and each of us is a link in this chain of love. And if we do not understand this, we have understood nothing of what the Church is."

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

4th Sunday of Easter – Year C
1st Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52
2nd Reading: Rv 7:9, 14-17
Gospel: Jn 10:27-30



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Zahlia Gall, 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.**

Baptism: Zachary and Isabel Rhodes (Branxton), Hamish Gray and Alexander Gardner (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

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 @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 Courtney Newman | Office: 02 4931 1220 | Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au |

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 8 MAY 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 | | |
| Commentator | | L Gorczyca | G Cattermole | | E Janssen | |
| Readers | C Trunk C Szumilus | K Ingold | J Duldulao H Duldulao | M Stowe D Cantrall | H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen | |
| Prayers | | L Gorczyca | M Spinks | F King | E Janssen | Welcomers are required each week. |
| Offertory | S McAlister M Thomas | T Ernst | | | | |
| Rosary Leader | | 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

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| 2 May <i>St Athanasius</i> | 3 May <i>STS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES</i> | 4 May | 5 May | 6 May | 7 May | 8 May FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C |
| <u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass <u>9.20am</u> Adoration & Benediction <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>5.00pm</u> LOTW <i>Broke</i> | <u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> LOTW <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> |
| | <u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> LOTW <i>St Catherine's Greta</i> | | <u>9.20am</u> LOTW <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | | <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | <u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i> |

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.

Fr Thomas on Leave During May

Fr Thomas will be taking leave during May to head home to India. During his absence we will have Fr Tony Brady and Fr Bill Goldman covering Mass in the parishes. We thank them for their assistance during this time.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 6 May all day. All items for the bulletin need to be with the office by 12pm Wednesday 4 May.

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.

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***. Please return Project Compassion boxes to churches this Sunday 1 May 2022.

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 machines for the maintenance of grounds at St Patrick's Church, Queen Street Cemetery, and the Presbytery. The raffle will be drawn on Father's Day weekend.

First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 May 2022 at 9.20am to pray for the souls of anyone whose anniversary occurs this month we especially remember

- ✠ Lynn Karpel
- ✠ Russell Rapp
- ✠ Gloria Mills

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

Morning Tea After Mass

A cup of tea or coffee will be available for those who are attending 7am or 10am Mass in Singleton on Sunday 8 May 2022. All are welcome to stay for a cuppa and chat before heading home.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch in the Albion Hotel Restaurant on Tuesday 10 May 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 11 May 2022 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. For more information, please contact Elaine on 0432 870012.

MacKillop Place Pilgrimage

Our pilgrimage will be on Friday 5 August 2022. Bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am picking up in Greta, Lochinvar, Rutherford, and East Maitland. Cost is \$50.00 which includes bus, morning tea, museum tour. You will be able to visit the gift shop and spend private prayer time in the Chapel. Mary MacKillop Place is complying with all COVID safe procedures as required by government and church authorities. Lunch will be at your own expense (venue still to be determined). Bus will leave Sydney at 3.00pm to return home. All welcome to attend. Names to Helen 4938 1467 or Mercia 0447 819 889.

Thank You

Thank you to Father Thomas, parishioners, and caring friends, for mass offerings, prayers, cards and words of comfort we have received following the death of my sister, Mary Markham and Alan's brother John Thomas. May they rest in peace.

From Mercia Thomas

"...we are but travellers here." *Saint Mary MacKillop*

Mystagogy Monday

Mystagogical reflection invites us into a personal encounter with Christ in the gospel we have heard, the liturgy we have celebrated, or an experience of life or ministry. It invites us to pay attention to what Christ reveals to us, both in that encounter and the living tradition of our faith and to connect it to life now. It invites us to dialogue and transformation. Join us each Monday morning as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel. Commencing 9 May at 10am

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637>

Live-Stream Mass from the Cathedral

Mass will be live streamed every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream

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*



Amoris Laetitia Family Year 2021 - 2022

On March 19, 2021, the Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On the same day, Pope Francis launched the year 'Amoris Laetitia Family' which will conclude on 26 June 2022, during the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome. Pope Francis has asked all parishes to prepare the faithful through catechesis on family and marriage.

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. The aim is to encourage their use, especially in dioceses and parishes, by proposing them as a pastoral path to be followed with families. If you miss out on a copy please contact the parish office. Scan the QR code below to watch the video for this week's program.

In June coinciding with world meeting of families we too will be celebrating the conclusion of the family year on June 25th and 26th. The Parish Pastoral Councils will be hosting family events after Mass at Branxton on Saturday 25 June and in Singleton on Sunday 26 June, 10am Mass. Mark your diaries and watch the bulletin for more details.

Branxton and Singleton Parishes would like to honour those couples who are celebrating 25- or 50-years marriage during the *Amoris Laetitia Family Year*. Parish will try to obtain Papal blessing for the occasion. Please contact the Parish office to register your interest by 13 May 2022.



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