

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

Mother's Day

8 May 2022

First Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rv 7:9, 14-17
A reading from the book of Apocalypse.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10: 27-30
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:
'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

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



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

Voice Followers

You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, because of St Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth. We have not yet realised this potential.

What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But it takes a good teacher to help us to hear The Voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the Bishops who carry a shepherd's staff. But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, and some others. They have helped me hear The Voice assuring me that I will never perish, that I will receive eternal life.

That is a Voice worth following! We could pause for a moment to get on the same wavelength as the Good Shepherd so as to echo His Voice in our lives.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

5th Sunday of Easter – Year C

1st Reading: Acts 14:21-27

2nd Reading: Rv 21:1-5

Gospel: Jn 13:31-35



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, Ros Thompson and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Ivan Meyn, Jeremiah Lynch, Mary Coffey, Geoff Tope, Ian Tope, Lorraine Edwards. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Sr Gladys Gardner RSM. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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
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
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 15 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		J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	L Pozywio	C Spiteri D Thompson	J Bray T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd		J & A Phillips	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	J Gorczyca			J & A Phillips	
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

Monday 9 May	Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May St Nereus & Achilleus St Pancras	Friday 13 May Our Lady of Fatima	Saturday 14 May ST MATTHIAS	Sunday 15 May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm 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	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am LOTW 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.

Fr Thomas on Leave During May

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

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. Tickets are still on sale and the raffle will be drawn on Father's Day weekend.

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.

St Brigid's Parish Lunch

The next St Brigid's Parish Monthly lunch will be held on Friday 20 May 2022 at 12pm in the Royal Federal Hotel Restaurant. Please have names to Mercia by 17 May 2022 by phoning 0447 819 889. All are welcome to attend.

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.

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

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>

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia

This month can you provide transport to help priests and religious reach and nourish the faithful in Tanzania? Your offering will bridge the divide between priests and their people in Tanzania due to the harsh terrain and dangerous travel. By providing a means of transport, the faithful will be able to participate in more frequent Masses and partake of the Sacraments, as well as providing a means of help to the people, including pregnant mothers, to reach medical facilities. To make an offering to ACN's Project of the Month visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Privacy Awareness Week – Privacy the Foundation of Trust



Trust is essential to the community as the digital economy continues to grow and play a major part in our lives. It is essential that the public can trust organisations to handle their personal information with integrity and care; transparently, accountably and in ways that the community would regard as fair and reasonable. That trust will not occur without privacy as the foundation.

For individuals it's easy to build good privacy habits. There are simple foundations you can lay to protect your personal information, such as strengthening your passwords and making sure your privacy settings are solid. Visit <https://education.oaic.gov.au/paw2022/tips-individuals> to learn more about how to build good privacy habits.

Volunteer Week

This year National Volunteer Week will run from 16-22 May. Right across our Diocese, volunteering brings people together, builds communities and creates a better society for everyone. As a parish volunteer you are invited to a screening of THE LOST CITY at Event Cinemas Kotara on Thursday 19 May at 6pm. See the poster on the noticeboard for more information.

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



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



God of tender and caring love,
you are Mother and Father to us all.
In Mary, you gave us the model of mothers,
rejoicing in her child
and loving him from before he was born.
Bless our mothers and grandmothers
and all who are mother to us
as they bring your loving presence into this world.
We make this prayer through Mary and Elizabeth
and through your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen