

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

15 May 2022

First Reading **Acts 14:21-27**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. *(R.)*

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Rv 21:1-5**
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they

shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 13:31-35**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.

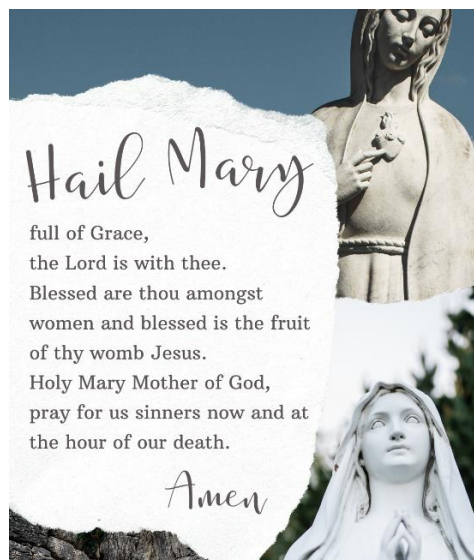
I give you a new commandment:

love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

City Life for True Lovers

'Love one another as I have loved you.' You may think that Our Lord's extravagant extreme of love in voluntarily undergoing death for us, is something no human being could ever measure up to.

But actually, something like this happens whenever a mother or father sits by the bedside of a child suffering the terrible pain of a chronic illness or traumatic accident and, perhaps, even facing the prospect of death. Such a parent will invariably say 'I would rather suffer and die than see my child suffer and die.' It is the same with a person seeing their much loved life partner in a similar situation.

Each of us, usually to a lesser degree and in less fraught circumstances, has the opportunity to absorb, to some extent, the sufferings of others. We are thus given the possibility of fulfilling the command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

The effect of this sort of loving will be realised at the end of history, not in a garden of Paradise, but as in a wonderful City where all tears will be wiped from our eyes.

We could pause for a moment on our way to that future City, resolving to be alert to opportunities to fulfil our Lord's command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

6th Sunday of Easter - Year C

1st Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

2nd Reading: Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel: Jn 14:23-29



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: Lorraine Edwards, Patrick Slattery, Boleslaw & Victoria Szumilas, Margaret Trunk, Janine Worden. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Tia Killick and Luke Wright (Branxton), Molly Carey and Adley Hunt (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 22 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	Skardon Family	G McMillan
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole			
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	L Gorczyca	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		D Clarke	E Thomas		Skardon Family	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	C Trunk A Trunk	P Bridge			Skardon Family	
Rosary Leader		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 16 May	Tuesday 17 May	Wednesday 18 May St John I	Thursday 19 May	Friday 20 May St Bernadine of Siena	Saturday 21 May St Christopher of Magallanes & com.	Sunday 22 May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 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 St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm LOTW Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am LOTW 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton	6.00pm Reconciliation Sacramental Program St Brigid's Branxton	6.00pm Mass 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.

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.

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.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Greta

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea will be held in the Parish Room at St. Catherine's, Greta on Sunday 12 June 2022 commencing at 9.00am (after 8.00am Mass).

This is a fundraiser for Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs. Entry is via a donation at the door. Everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for morning tea. For more information, please contact Joy Clarke on 0439 381 372.

Federal Election

Read the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2022 election statement, **Towards a Better Kind of Politics**, to help you reflect on the good you can do for the community by using your vote for the common good of all. The statement includes a Prayer for the Election and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Download a copy from www.catholic.org.au

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.

Christian Formation Course

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition in community. This course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation. By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith, grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community.

The course will commence in July 2022. For more information go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course

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.



Laudato Si' Week (16-24 May) is a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world to care for our common home. You can participate through prayer, action and reflection with the new resources for parishes, schools, organisations and individuals created by the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace. Go to www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Daily reflections will be published on our Parish Facebook page from Monday 16 May at 7.00am. Included will be actions for HEAD, HEART and HANDS – practical ways you can make a difference and **Discover God in All Things!** (LS N 233)

Jesus tells us to love each other as he loves us. How did Jesus show us that he loves us?

