

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

22 May 2022

First Reading Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rv 21:10-14, 22-23
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:23-29
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

God's home is where the heart is

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long range rocket, hoping it will find its target.

This is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel.

'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I will make our home with that person.' It is not in outer space, but in inner space that Divine Love will make a home.

What turns a house into a home? It is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. So, Jesus created a sacred meal for us and invites us to share in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink.

When we do so, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. We take into ourselves the Real Presence of the Risen Lord who makes his home with us.

Coming to Communion, even after a long time away, satisfies the yearning of the human heart because it is made to be the habitation of Divine Love. We could pause for a moment to reflect on the gracious fact that God chooses to dwell in our hearts. Let us respond wholeheartedly.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and
he will send you another Paraclete, to abide
with you for ever, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Lk 24:46-53



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

Recently Deceased: Stephen Wellard and Mary Petrie. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Anniversaries: Lyn Karpel, Nell Meyn and Jimmy McAleer. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Mylah & Payce Skinner (Branxton), Alfie Aubrey & Theodore Rice (Greta), Tasman & Matisse McLeod (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
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 29 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 Woolley
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	M Thomas C Szumilas	L Pozywio	P Boyd		T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd		E Janssen	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Partridge	G Wilton				
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
23 May	24 May <i>OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS</i>	25 May <i>St Gregory VII, St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, St Bede the Venerable</i>	26 May <i>St Philip Neri</i>	27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	28 May	29 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, 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> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <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> LOTW <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 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.

Planned Giving Envelopes and Tax Receipts

Those who give to the 2nd collection via envelopes or direct debit will find an envelope at the back of the church. Please complete the form enclosed to elect to receive a tax receipt for 2021-22 and if you wish to have envelopes for 2022-23. If you do not currently have envelopes but wish to have some for the coming year, please contact the parish office.

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.

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.

Mystagogy Monday

Mystagogy 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. Join us each Monday as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637>

2022 TWEC Dinner

This year's dinner will be held Friday 24 June from 6.30pm at the Therry Centre, East Maitland. We invite you to enjoy a meal, share stories of the Josephite spirit within the diocesan community and imagine the next chapter of the Tenison Woods Education Community story together. Seats at the dinner are \$60 per person which includes drinks, canapés, main course and dessert. Tables of 10, small group and individual bookings are welcome. For details and bookings go to <https://2022twec.eventbrite.com.au> Attendee names and dietary needs can be entered at checkout. For queries please contact Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 or sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

Meeting of Families Formation Events

A number of events will be run online for families during June. 1 June *Belonging, Being and Becoming* at St Nicholas Presented by Caroline McGuinness (Trainer and Assessor, St Nicholas Pathways).

8 June *Educating the whole child to support learning and wellbeing* Presented by Renee Tyczynski (Professional Officer [psychologist], Catholic Schools Office)

15 June *Social connections and improving senior's wellbeing* Presented by Nicola Rosenthal (Regional Manager, Catholic Healthcare)

20 June *Relationships Matter* Presented by Robyn Donnelly (Marriage and Relationship Educator- Pastoral Ministries)

For more information and to register, go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events

National Reconciliation Week 2022



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The dates for NRW are the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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.



2022 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

THEME PRAYER

Fully
ALIVE

Creator God,
you reveal your love in all of creation.
Help us to be more aware of your presence
and more attentive to your wonder:
in the warmth of the sun,
in the colours of our landscapes,
in the songs of the birds,
in the smile of a friend.

Generous God,
you know and love each one of us.
Let our hearts overflow with gratitude
for every blessing and gift.
Open our hearts to your plan for us
so that we may become people
who are fully alive
in your amazing grace.

During the week of the 23-27 May 2022, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week across the many schools in our diocese.

As an annual event, it is a time where we celebrate the remarkable work, passion, and enthusiasm our Catholic schools exhibit daily. We recognise these places as learning communities who are committed to excellence through the education of the 'whole child,' providing an all-round education that nurtures each student spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically. It is this education that enables all students to flourish and become the best versions of themselves.

This year our Catholic Schools Week theme is "Fully Alive," which reminds us that we are most alive when we are in touch with our inner selves and can acknowledge deep connections between ourselves, God, others, and creation. As communities of faith, we are called to grow in awareness of the life in and around us, to live more fully and not to "settle for a bland and mediocre existence" (Pope Francis, *Gaudete Et Exultate*). In a world that is unconsciously losing touch with this inner awareness, our theme encourages us to live in harmony with all of creation, to cultivate a Sacramental Imagination that enables us to recognise the beauty of God in all things.

As we embark on this significant occasion for all our schools, may we truly honour the privileged gift of Catholic education and for all those who contribute to its vitality and spirit. May we too celebrate our young people, who are formed to be good citizens of the world, who love God and neighbour, and who enrich our society by living out the call of the Gospel.

May we all strive to live in active service of Jesus and His mission as we celebrate together during Catholic Schools Week and always.

St Catherine's Catholic College in Singleton will be celebrating Catholic Schools week with a liturgy and open classrooms on Tuesday 24 May from 11.40am. Rosary Park Catholic School in Branxton will be celebrating on Thursday 26 May from 1pm with a liturgy and open classrooms. Parents are most welcome to both events.