

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

The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

29 May 2022

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

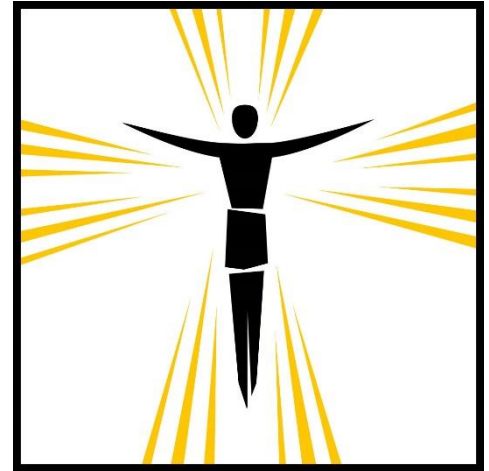
Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

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



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory

Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the fullness of creation dwells'.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Anne Marie Ebbeck, 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: John "Jack" Hebbe and Sr Mary Regina Donoghue. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Anniversaries: Peter Van Lung Nguyen, Mary McAlister, Mary Trunk. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Audrey Hassett (Branxton), Mabel Folpp, Cohen and Spencer Mills (Greta). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be placed 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	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 5 JUNE 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		G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
Readers	C Murray C Trunk	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford		M Cunningham	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J & S Stafa		G Cattermole			
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
30 May	31 May THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED MARY	1 June St Justin	2 June St Marcellinus & Peter	3 June St Charles Lwanga and companions	4 June	5 June PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR C
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Adoration & Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> LOTW <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 3 June. Please have all items for the bulletin to the office by Wednesday 1 June.

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.

First Anniversary Mass St Patrick's

1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 4 June 2022 at 9.20am. Our prayers will be for the souls of all those who passed away in the month of June. All are welcome to attend. If you have any queries, please contact Elaine Thomas on 0432 870012.

St Patrick's Women's Guild AGM

The Annual General Meeting for St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 8 June at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive Singleton Heights. New members most welcome!

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.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome to meet for a chat over a meal.

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 Mercia 0447 819 889.

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.

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

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 you 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.



LIVING THE GOSPEL

You will be my witnesses

Organisers of the twenty-third World Youth Day hosted by Sydney in 2008 took as its theme verse 8 of the passage from Acts 1 that is today's first reading: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses." The choice of this theme for a world-wide gathering of young people of faith is a significant reminder of the call of Jesus to go out to the ends of the earth and to bear witness to his message. These are the final words on earth attributed to Jesus and they echo to us through time.

GOSPEL FOCUS

A message for all people

One of the defining features of the Gospel of Luke is the fact that the message preached and practised by Jesus made salvation available to all people. At times in the gospel some of the Jewish audience became quite angry at Jesus because he said that pagans and gentiles were also included in the salvation he promised – something they regarded as exclusive to the 'chosen' people. The two accounts of the Ascension make very clear that the message and ministry of Jesus are to be carried to all nations – even to the ends of the earth!

**SCRIPTURAL
CONTEXT**

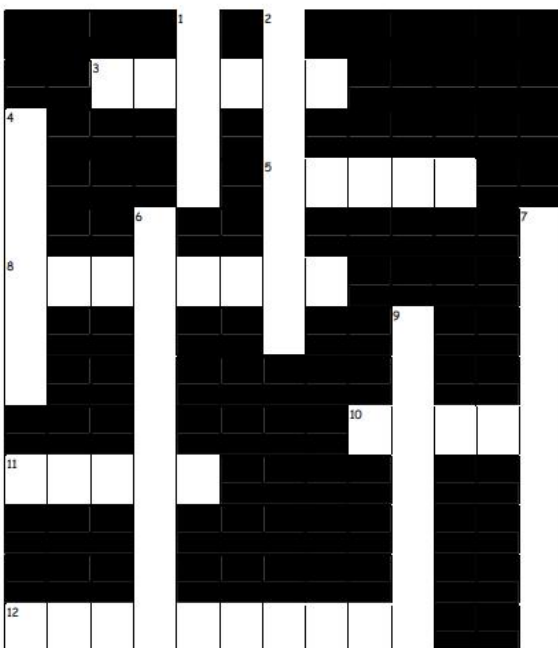
Luke-Acts

The two works of Luke and Acts, ascribed to the same writer, are both addressed to the same person, Theophilus. However, the Greek name, Theophilus, means 'Friend of God' or 'Beloved of God'. Theophilus may have been a particular person or may have been a literary device by the author – using the name to imply that the books were written to any 'Friend of God'. There is a common style employed in the writing of the two works and a common theology runs through both works and it is these commonalities that lead scholars to conclude that the two works share the same author.

CROSSWORD

Jesus was taken up to heaven

Lk 24:50-53



Across

- 3: lifted up
- 5: Jesus had scars on his feet and _____
- 8: speaking highly of another
- 10: our Saviour
- 11: glad
- 12: praised God

Down

- 1: a clock tells the _____
- 2: before ascending into heaven, Jesus led his disciples to this town
- 4: the place where the disciples went to pray
- 6: followers of Christ
- 7: the disciples returned to this city
- 9: to have been given a blessing