

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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

17 July 2022

First Reading

Gen 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.
(R.)

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Col 1:24-28

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

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

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



A Cardinal Role for Women?

Jesus turned the customs and taboos of his society upside down. In this Gospel, against all the rules of segregation, Jesus is alone with women who are *not* his relatives, completely at ease with their hospitality. It is personal relationships, not gender determined relationships, which are important to him.

Further, here is Mary assuming the posture of a student at the feet of a Rabbi (teacher) listening to his teaching. We remember that Jesus had chosen his male disciples in order to teach *them*. Mary chooses *Him* to teach *her!* Maybe it was a counter-cultural step too far for Martha. Is that what she is really 'anxious and troubled' about?

Jesus was willing to upset the social conventions and religious taboos of his day in respect of women. What would be a good contemporary response of the Catholic Church?

The word 'cardinal' means hinge – 'hinge of the door' – an essential part of the structure of the Church which is our home, in which we listen to the words of Jesus Christ. Could the College of Cardinals be supplemented to include women alongside the ordained male prelates? Outstanding women, religious or lay, could head some Vatican departments and take part in the election of the Pope.

That would be a strongly symbolic step with repercussions throughout the Church.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the Church to show a greater willingness to sit, like Mary, at the feet of Jesus so that we may hear his words: 'You have chosen the better portion.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Seventeenth Sunday in Ord Time, Year C

1st Reading: Gen 18:20-32

2nd Reading: Col 2:12-14

Gospel: Lk 11:1-13



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, Victoria Micaleff, John Ottery, David Patton, Jen Phillips, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, Zane Slomka, Arlo Spicer, Ros Thompson, Jane Winsor-O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Clara Thomas, Janina and Jan Orlowski, Jim and Betty Bates, Janice Tierney. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Marie Frost, Pam Langsford (20 July 11am St Pats), Patty Bell (26 July 11am St Pats). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Amarni and Ariella Lisuia and Charlie Partridge (Branxton). **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 singletonbranxton @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 24 JULY 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		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
Readers	P Conroy C Szumilas	M Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	E Thomas		A Skardon	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	G Wilton			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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
18 July	19 July	20 July <i>St Apollinaris</i>	21 July <i>St Lawrence of Brindisi</i>	22 July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	23 July <i>St Bridget</i>	24 July 17TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, 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> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> Mass Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE 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 Changes

As you may be aware, Deacon Omeiza Solomon Okovido will be leaving our Parish to take up a posting in All Saints Blackbutt South Parish. We wish him well with his move and for the future. With his departure there will be changes made to the rostering of weekly Masses. We will continue the previous parish tradition of alternating Mass with **Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist** (SCAE). If you are interested in being a leader of liturgy in your Parish, please contact Fr Thomas. If you previously had training to be a leader and wish to refresh your formation, please let Fr Thomas know. We thank you for your understanding during this time of transition.

St Brigid's Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place

Tickets are still available for the St Brigid's Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place on Friday 5 August 2022. Cost is \$50.00 which includes bus, morning tea and museum tour. The bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am and collect at Greta, Lochinvar, Rutherford and East Maitland aiming to arrive in Sydney at 10am for morning tea and museum tour followed by Mass in the chapel at 12pm. We will stop at Roseville Club where you will purchase your own lunch before heading home at 3pm. Please confirm your place and payment by 15 July to Mercia on 0447 819 889.

Volunteer at Vinnies

By volunteering, you can be sure you're making a difference for those in need. For some Vinnies volunteers, this is a chance to give something back to the community, to use their skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of people who need assistance the most. For others, it is a chance to develop new skills and experience in a supportive environment. Retail volunteer roles include Retail Assistant and Donation Sorting volunteers. Contact Singleton Vinnies for more information (02) 6572 2723 or call in to the shop at 37 Macquarie Street.

Apostolic Letter from Our Holy Father Pope Francis

A copy of the Apostolic Letter from Our Holy Father Pope Francis - 'The Liturgical Formation of the People of God' can be found at each church or you can read it on the Vatican Website by using this link <https://tinyurl.com/yc7as9tv>

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>
Password: pray
For more information contact:
rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Rediscovering Joy – Finding Wonder & Joy in the Word of God

Join us for a Day with Sr Mary Coloe, current Associate Professor of New Testament studies within the University of Divinity Melbourne. In a retreat style and setting, Sr Mary will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Date: 15 August 2022 Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm (arrive from 8.30am) Venue: Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley Cost: \$30

To register go to: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-339651395467

Cursillo Weekend

Come journey with us as we share our faith stories – a weekend of meditations, prayers, songs and talks by laypeople, religious and priests – at the Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Road, Rathmines, from Thursday 25 August to Sunday 28 August inclusive. For details, please ring Greg Byrne 0427 918 568 or Meryl McCosker 0498 250 000.

What is Cursillo? Since 1970, Cursillo has been alive and active in our Diocese. It continues to be a wonderful instrument of personal conversion, community growth and renewal of a sense of mission within the Church. Cursillo uses a method to present a genuine way for us to live as Christians in the world. It offers a means to grow our relationship with God so that we can live our lives with other Christians and can be used by God to reach others.

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 12 months and comprises 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 late 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 unending 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

Saint Mary Magdalene

22 JULY



Mary of Magdala was a disciple of Christ who was healed by him when he cast out seven devils. She stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died, and went to the tomb to anoint his body on the morning of Easter Sunday. She was the first witness to Jesus' resurrection when she found his tomb empty. In St Mark's Gospel, it is Mary Magdalene to whom the risen Jesus first appears and further to this, in St John's account, Jesus gives her a message to pass on to his brethren. Since the time of Pope Gregory the Great, a tradition in the Western church arose that identified Mary Magdalene as the unnamed sinner who anointed Christ's feet, and Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. But since 1969 the new Roman calendar has rejected this belief entirely.

**I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS**

**WORLD DAY
FOR
GRANDPARENTS
AND THE
ELDERLY**

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS



World Day for Grandparents and Elderly

In old age they will still bear fruit

This is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the II World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2022



On Sunday, July 24, 2022, the Second *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* will be celebrated throughout the universal Church. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the occasion is "***In old age they will still bear fruit***" (Psalm 92:15) and intends to emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities.

The theme is also an invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities. Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity.

The invitation to listen to the wisdom of the years is also particularly significant in the context of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken.