

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

24 July 2022

First Reading

Gen 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. **(R.)**

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Col 2:12-14

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

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

**You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children,
and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Lk 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand

him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Heaven and Earth can coincide

People often imagine huge distance between Earth and a Heaven beyond the horizon of the universe. But Jesus Christ taught us to pray 'Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.'

How can this come about? Jesus identified two areas on which we need to focus to help make Heaven and Earth share the same space.

'Give us this day our daily bread.' This petition is very real for most inhabitants of the world – a plea for the necessities of life to stave off real hunger. If we respond to this plea, we can change a Hellish situation to a place where Heaven and Earth coincide. 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' But, first to Shakespeare: 'The quality of Mercy is not strained. It falleth as the gentle rain of Heaven on to the place beneath.'

If we develop a hardness of heart which refuses to show forgiveness, then we are like earth concreted over and are unable to absorb God's forgiveness into our own lives. When we forgive someone, we become more able to absorb the gentle rain of heavenly mercy and forgiveness.

So, Heaven and Earth need not be as distant as supposed. Our Lord has shown us how we can help make these dimensions of existence coincide.

We could take a moment to resolve to pray the 'Our Father' by our lives, helping to provide evidence for our acclamation:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Eighteenth Sunday in Ord Time, Year C

1st Reading: Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23

2nd Reading: Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Lk 12:13-21



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, Victoria Micalef, 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: Bill Burton, Colin Crow, Adrian Klasen, Margaretha Klasen and Janice Tierney. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Chris Peardon (Dubbo). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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
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 31 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		G McMillan
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole		E Janssen	Welcomers are required each week.
Readers	M Thomas S Trunk	L Harrison	P Boyd		T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd		E Janssen	
Offertory	Partridge Family	T Ernst				
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
25 July <i>ST JAMES, APOSTLE</i>	26 July <i>Sts Joachim & Ann</i>	27 July	28 July	29 July <i>St Martha</i>	30 July <i>St Chrysologus</i>	31 July 18TH 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> LoW with Communion St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass 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> 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 Changes

To ensure all parish communities can receive communion with only one priest in the parish, we will continue the previous parish tradition of alternating Mass with **Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist** (SCAE). On some occasions, when Fr Thomas is unavailable for weekday Mass, **Liturgy of the Word (with Communion)** will be celebrated. To make these celebrations available, Lay Leaders are needed. If you are interested or if you previously had training to be a leader and wish to refresh your formation, please speak to Fr Thomas. We thank you for your understanding during this time of transition. A roster will be put on the noticeboard for those wishing to volunteer.

Tax Receipts for Planned Giving

For those who have requested a tax receipt for their 2021/22 Planned Giving, the finance team in the Diocese are hoping to have these available by 29 July 2022. The Parish office will send them out as soon as possible. Envelopes are still available for those who would like to give to the second collection and receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. Please contact the Parish Office on 5507 4048.

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, Meryl McCosker 0498 250 000 or Gerard McMillan 6572 2676.

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.

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who stepped in to ensure the parish community was looked after during Fr Thomas's isolation. Your help is very appreciated.

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

Can you undertake an Overseas Mission?

Our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are requesting Australian Catholics to join them to build the skills of those in their community who have had less opportunity than ourselves. Please consider these Mission opportunities abroad <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/>. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provide support. Palms Australia, who have prepared Australian Catholics for global mission since 1961, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away. Enquire online <https://palms.org.au> or Ph: 0422 742 567 to find out about a placement to engage your skills. You can also register at <https://palms.org.au/event/> for a Webinar on Monday 1 August at 7.00pm to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor Leste and two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. The stories will inspire.

Applications Open for 2023 Pastoral Placement Program

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help people explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices. For more information go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

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*

**I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS**

**WORLD DAY
FOR
GRANDPARENTS
AND THE
ELDERLY**

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS



This 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.

Words from Pope Francis

'The future - and this is not an exaggeration - will be in the dialogue between young and old. If grandparents do not dialogue with grandchildren, there will be no future.'

To the members of the Italian National Association of Senior Workers, 16 December 2019

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
2nd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2022*



PRAYER FOR THE SECOND WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

**I give thanks to you, Lord,
For the blessing of a long life
For, to those who take refuge in You,
Grant always to bear fruit.**

**Forgive, O Lord,
Resignation and disillusionment,
But forsake me not
When my strength declines.**

**Teach me to look with hope
To the future you give me,
To the mission you entrust to me
And to sing your praises without end.**

**Make me a tender craftsman
Of Your revolution,
To guard with love my grandchildren
And all the little ones who seek shelter in You.**

**Protect, O Lord, Pope Francis
And grant Thy Church
To deliver the world from loneliness.
Direct our steps in the way of peace.
Amen.**