

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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

14 August 2022

First Reading Jer 38:4-6, 8-10
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. *(R.)*

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. *(R.)*

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. *(R.)*

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! *(R.)*

Second Reading Heb 12:1-4
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 12:49-53
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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



I have come to bring fire

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth.

So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit '... like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples?

Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite.

We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Twenty-first Sunday in Ord Time, Year C

1st Reading: Is 66:18-21

2nd Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, Victoria Micallef, John Ottery, David Patton, Jen Phillips, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, 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: George Cattermole, Marjorie Holz, Bob Crouch, Gladys Garner, Mary Brodbeck and Mary Ellen Holz. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Zane Slomka (Greta Football Club 19/8), Jovito Batan. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Reception: Pippa Drummond, Willoughby O'Nions and Mila Lynch (Singleton 5pm).

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	<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 21 AUGUST 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich		C Crow	J Dries		G McMillan
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	J Bray T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd		J & A Phillips	Offertory procession can commence again.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	G Wilton			J & A Phillips	
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
15 August THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	16 August <i>St Stephen of Hungary</i>	17 August	18 August	19 August <i>St John Eudes</i>	20 August <i>St Bernard</i>	21 August 21ST SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR C
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.30pm</u> Sacrament of Confirmation <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW <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</i> <u>11.00am</u> Mass <i>Mercy Home</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
<u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> Mass <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> Mass <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.

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)** (LOTW) 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.

Feast of the Assumption – Monday 15 August

The Feast of the Assumption is one of the most important feast days of the year and a Holy Day of Obligation, commemorating the Virgin Mary's assumption into heaven. Mass will be said in Singleton at 8am and Branxton at 5pm to allow all Parishioners the opportunity to attend Mass.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The monthly St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon will be held on Friday 19 August 2022 at 12 noon in Miller Park Hotel. Mercia has names from previous lunch. All are most welcome to join the group. Names to Mercia on 0447 819 889.

"...we are but travellers here" Saint Mary MacKillop 1842-1909

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*

Sunday Celebration in Anticipation of the Eucharist Branxton

Each month, St Brigid's Branxton will be holding Vigil Sunday Celebration in Anticipation of the Eucharist (SCAE) on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Three readers are required on those occasions. The current rosters will need to be adjusted and if you would like to be included, please sign the sheet in the back of the church. Thank you, Mercia.

Catholic Mission Appeal Weekend 13-14 August

"...From now on a household will be divided..." Luke 12:52

The reality for many families, in today's modern world, is that they will not be immune to breakdown. Whether is through divorce, separation or some other form of loss, families can become divided and relationships are ruptured. Jesus recognises this when He talks about the consequences of having an active faith life. It may not represent relationship breakdown but the challenge for couples, where one goes to Mass and the other stays home, and families, where a parent has to leave children behind, are all too real. All of this is by way of extending an invitation – Catholic Mission has several spots to fill in our annual speaking program. Would you and members of your family or household like to share in the privilege of sharing about the Church's missionary work in Ethiopia? If you could commit to a weekend, and cover two or more Masses, in another location, it would be a wonderful act of unity and a generous contribution of time, effort and faith. Please consider and help us light the blaze that Jesus talks about in this weekend's gospel. Contact me for further information about the Mission Ambassador Program. In the meantime, thank you for giving to the appeal, both with your donations over the weekend and with your prayers

Safeguarding Information

More information can be found at the back of each church, with pamphlets available for children and vulnerable adults about what to do if you don't feel safe. You can always call the Office of Safeguarding on 4979 1390 or in a life-threatening situation please call 000.

Our commitment

The Diocese is committed to making sure:

-  **1 My community is a safe place where I feel respected and heard**
-  **2 There are people around me who know how to keep me safe**
-  **3 The grown-ups in my community check to make sure it is a safe place**
-  **4 Everyone follows the rules***

* NSW Child Safe Standards and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

A CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The following candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 19 August at St Patrick's Church, Singleton:



Ava Burns
Pippa Drummond
Emelia Graham
Avvy Holz
Samantha Jaca
Athena Jaca
Florence Jackson
Ethan Jones
Isla Lombardo
Mila Lynch

Matisse McLeod
Tasman McLeod
Willoughby O'Nions
Arya Skardon
Flynn Skardon
Luke Sponberg
Max Vaughan
Rhys Wetherspoon-Mills
Darcy Whitcombe
Nikkaelah Young

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive this very special Sacrament of Initiation on their journey to become full members of the Catholic community.

BRING HOPE TO NEELA AND HER FAMILY

This week Catholic Mission offers us the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to help prevent malnutrition, especially in babies and young children, and help disadvantaged families provide food for their loved ones.

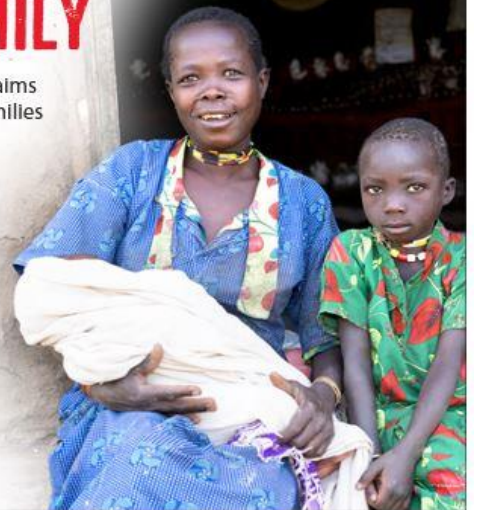
The Deberety Goat Rearing Centre is a dream of the local Church and community in Emdibir. When established, the Centre aims to provide nutritious goats milk for families in need, like Neela's*, so that babies like Ajani* can be healthy and strong.

Please give generously today to help kickstart this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope provided, going online at catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name altered to protect identity



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia



The Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place on Friday 5th of August was a wonderful day, enjoyed by all. COVID caused some cancellations, but those who journeyed with us, including some from Chisholm, were very happy at days end. Father Bill Goldman celebrated Mass in the Chapel and I extend my thanks to all
Mercia Thomas