

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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

4 September 2022

First Reading

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**

You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning.

In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I

should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 14:25-33

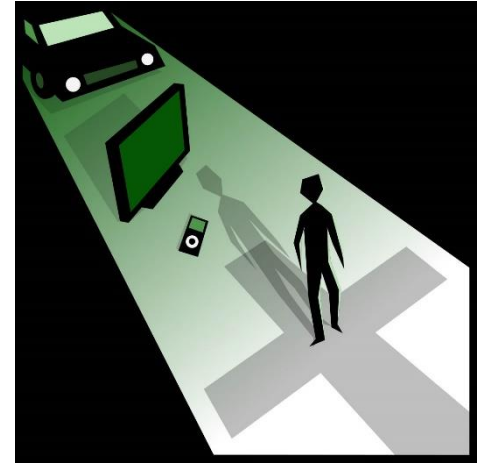
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Hate your father

I am told that, in most Middle Eastern languages, there is no word for 'prefer'. Perhaps influenced by extremes of heat and cold, the vocabulary of 'love' and 'hate' is used instead. No one can imagine Jesus 'hating' Joseph, but he clearly gave preference to his mission, even as a precocious 12 year old in the Temple.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers, imminently and over the generations, for persecution. This would include real-life situations of families denouncing a son or daughter, or a brother turning over a brother to the authorities.

Imagine a Chinese Catholic hearing this Gospel this morning, and this afternoon being betrayed by family members for remaining loyal to the successor of St Peter. Jesus exhorts such a follower to prefer this cross over what the family considers politically correct.

We could pause for a moment to pray for all families, torn apart for allegiance to Jesus in His Church, that they may be re-united in the peace of the Risen Lord.

Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ord Time, Year C

1st Reading: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14

2nd Reading: 1 Tm 1:12-17

Gospel: Lk 15:1-32



Prayer Requests

Sick: Brian Bridge, Austin Hoffman, Ricky Love, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, David Patton, Jen Phillips, Ros Thompson, Jane Winsor-O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Drusilla Nowlan, Theo Nowland, Ellen Dagg and Brian Stocks. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: John McAleer, Sue Bartlett. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Chloe Bendeich (Singleton). **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	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 11 SEPTEMBER 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		
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	*Volunteer needed	E Janssen	
Readers	C Murray C Trunk	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe D Cantrall	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	<i>Offertory procession can commence again.</i>
Offertory	J & S Stafa	T Ernst	*Volunteer needed	SCAE LEADER REQ	*Volunteer needed	
Rosary Leader		C Miller				

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
5 September	6 September	7 September	8 September <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9 September <i>St Peter Claver</i>	10 September	11 September <i>24th SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR C</i>
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm SCAE Broke	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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.

Lay Leaders Required

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.

Leaders are required for the following dates:

- 5 September – Singleton 8am
- 10 September – Broke 5pm
- 11 September – Singleton 10am
- 18 September – Singleton 5pm
- 19-23 September – all weekday services (*Priest Retreat*)
- 24 September – Glendonbrook 5pm
- 25 September – Singleton 7am
- 29 September – Branxton 9.20am

Farewell Dinner for Deacon Solomon

Parishioners are invited to formally say farewell to Deacon Solomon at Singleton Heights Diggers on Wednesday 14 September meeting from 5.30pm. Please place your name on the sheet at the back of the churches by 11 September.

St Augustine's Hall Stock Take

The Women's Guild will be undertaking a stocktake of all the items they have at St Augustine's Hall on Wednesday 7 September at 10am. We would appreciate as many members as possible to help with the counting of items.

Morning Tea – St Patrick's Church

Why not stay for a cuppa and a chat after 7am or 10am Mass on Sunday 11 September at St Patrick's Singleton. All are welcome to stay and invited to bring something yummy to share.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 13 September 2022 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcome.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 14 September 2022 at the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights commencing at 1.30pm. All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

St Brigid's Caritas Parish Lunch

The next lunch for Branxton Parish will be held on Friday 16 September at 12 noon in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All are invited to attend. Please contact Mercia Thomas.

Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Fr Greg Barker, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with The Federation of P&F Associations and The Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families and parishioners for this special celebration. It's on Sunday 18 September from 2.30pm at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road Medowie. An afternoon tea will be hosted after Mass, no RSVP is required. For more information, please contact Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance 2022

2022 marks five years since Lina's Project and Bishop Bill Wright establishing 15 September as a Perpetual day of Remembrance throughout the diocese.

A lot has happened in these five years, and particularly in the last twelve months or more. Our context is different, and context informs our feelings and understandings, our priorities and choices, our prayer and liturgy. Two-and-a-half years of living with COVID-19 has opened our eyes, and the eyes of Australian society, to the broad spectrum of abuse.

Violence in all its forms, and abuse in particular, exist on a very broad spectrum. The examples listed above are on the extreme end. At the other end are the tiny seeds of abuse which, if not challenged, grow into and enable the extremes. Our long standing 'Prayer for Turning on Light' (p.10-11) names some of these seeds: dishonesty, disrespect, hidden agendas, silence, exclusion. Such behaviours continue in our society, communities and workplaces.

Next Sunday, 11 September, you are invited to **Shine the Light of Christ** to remember and acknowledge the lifelong trauma of victims, survivors and their families at the Perpetual Day of Remembrance Mass. If you are unable to attend, you can find resources to use at home on the Diocese website www.mn.org.au using the link to Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

The Healing & Support Team – Zimmerman Service is available should any of this cause distress for any person. Please ring 4923 0636.

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.

Prayer for the Appointment of Our New Bishop

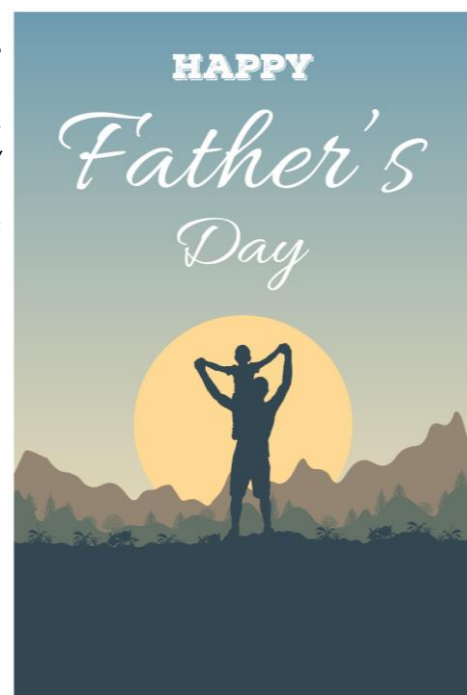
Shepherding God,
you reveal your way of unfailing love
in the image of the Good Shepherd
who seeks the lost,
shows compassion knows
and is known by the sheep
and lays down his life for them.
We your people of Maitland-Newcastle
are without a bishop to shepherd us.
We ask that your Holy Spirit
who moves 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*

Father's Day is a time to remember that fathers do many things. They work, cut grass, teach, pay bills and much more. Some jobs are mundane like helping with housework. Others are singular like ridding the home of wasps. It is a day for daughters and sons to recognise and celebrate their fathers and give a gift on a special day of the year. For the rest of the year the role of father can seem like a succession of tasks that are - usually - accepted and performed willingly. These seemingly endless ongoing tasks can make it easy to not be reflective about them. Many fathers seldom reflect on the spiritual meaning of their fatherhood and the incredible blessing it is to be a father. How wonderful is it to have the honour of being a father. To watch your children grow, into a wife or husband, and become parents themselves. It is an honour beyond any recognition one might receive in a professional or other personal life. God knew what he was doing when he allowed men to become fathers. Perhaps he was giving us a glimpse of his own glory.

A BLESSING FOR FATHERS

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers
as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience.
Support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2022

4-10 SEPTEMBER

**EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY COMMUNITY
NEEDS A FAIR GO**

Child abuse and neglect is preventable. If we all work together as a community we can create an Australia where all children can grow up safe and well. What role can you play in supporting children and their families?

Richard Cooke, CEO, NAPCAN

National Child Protection Week invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

This year, National Child Protection Week (NCPW) occurs across Australia from 4-10 September. In 2022, National Child Protection Week will continue to embrace the overarching message:

Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.

To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

HOW IS OUR DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN?

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children. The Office of Safeguarding is the structural expression of the Diocese's commitment to demonstrate the highest standards of recognising and upholding the dignity and rights of all children.

The Office of Safeguarding provides training to diocesan personnel to ensure they adopt safe work practices when working with children, and to increase their awareness of the indicators of abuse to equip them to provide the correct response. The Office of Safeguarding also provides an intake service to assist diocesan personnel in ensuring they meet both their mandatory reporting obligations to statutory authorities as well as their duty of care obligations. Risk assessments and comprehensive compliance audits are also undertaken to ensure the diocese is compliant with various safeguarding regulatory and contractual obligations and to reduce and manage identified risks.

For more information you can visit the Office of Safeguarding website <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Each church in our Parishes have a range of resource pamphlets available.