

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

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**15 January 2023**

**First Reading** **Is 49:3, 5-6**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';  
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.  
And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
to gather Israel to him:  
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back  
the survivors of Israel;  
I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends  
of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.**

*(R.) Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.*

I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. **(R.)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** **1 Cor 1:1-3**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle,  
together with brother Sosthenes, send  
greetings to the church of God in Corinth,  
to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are  
called to take their place among all the  
saints everywhere who pray to our Lord  
Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than  
ours. May God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** **Jn 1:14, 12**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The Word of God became flesh and  
dwelt among us.**  
**He enabled those who accepted him  
to become the children of God.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Jn 1:29-34**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John  
said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that  
takes away the sin of the world. This is the  
one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming  
after me who ranks before me because he  
existed before me. I did not know him  
myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel  
that I came baptising with water.' John also  
declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on  
him from heaven like a dove and resting on  
him. I did not know him myself, but he who  
sent me to baptise with water had said to  
me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit  
come down and rest is the one who is going  
to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have  
seen and I am the witness that he is the  
Chosen One of God.'

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



**The Perfume of Holiness**

*What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off.*

*We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.*

*Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'You are my beloved son/daughter'. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God.*

*So, if St Paul were writing to us today, as he did to the Corinthians, this is how it would run: '... to the church of God that is in Singleton, made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'*

*But, we are not alone. In a multitude of places there are people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. How is the 'togetherness' held together? By being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Francis.*

*We might pause for a moment to thank God that we are amongst the baptised who can receive St Paul's greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'*

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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All the earth shall bow down before you,  
O God, and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that  
quenches my thirst.

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

**1st Reading:** Is 8:23-9:3

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

**Gospel:** Mt 4:12-23



**Sick:** Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Cathy Dunn (Goulburn), Austin Hoffman, Mary-Rose Hopkins, Maureen March, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, Jen Phillips, Peter Rouse and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Percy Nowlan, Kelly Buttigieg, Alfred Thomas, Cecil Crouch. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Cardinal George Pell, Mick McCrone. *May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*

**Baptisms:** Penny Visser (Branxton), Sebastian Holt and Hadley Oxford (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.*

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>YouTube</b> <b>Twitter</b>	singletonbranxton @parish_sb
<b>St Patrick's Parish</b>	<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>		
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	<b>Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299</b>
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	<b>Contact: 6577 6168</b>
<b>St Brigid's Parish</b>	<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>		
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	<b>Contact: 0407 381 525</b>
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	<b>Contact: 0428 485 025</b>

St. Catherine's Catholic College	<i>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<i>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</i>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<i>Director: Ms Tricia Ellerbeck</i>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries	Skardon Family	G McMillan (17/1)
<b>Commentator</b>	<b>SCAE LEADER</b>	L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas C Szumilas	M Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	<b>SCAE LEADER</b> H Rapp C & O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	A Skardon	<i>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</i>
<b>Offertory</b>	J & S Stafa	J Gorczyca	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	Skardon Family	
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>						
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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.*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>16 January</b>	<b>17 January</b> <i>St Anthony</i>	<b>18 January</b>	<b>19 January</b>	<b>20 January</b> <i>St Fabian</i> <i>St Sebastian</i>	<b>21 January</b> <i>St Agnes</i>	<b>22 January</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</b> <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>
	<u>8.50am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's</i> <i>Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's</i> <i>Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</b> <i>St Brigid's</i> <i>Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's</i> <i>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.

## Office Hour changes - January

The Parish office will be

**OPEN** Monday 23 January,

**CLOSED** Tuesday 24 January

**OPEN** Wednesday 25 January

**CLOSED** Thursday 26 January and Friday 27 January

## St Brigid's Parish Monthly Lunch

Everyone is welcome to attend the next St Brigid's Parish Lunch organized by the Caritas group at 12pm, Friday 20 January 2023 at Miller Park Hotel. Please contact Mercia on 0447 819 889 by 17 January if you will be attending.

## Have a Cuppa for Santo Nino!



## PARISH FIESTA 2023 IN HONOUR OF SENOR SANTO NINO SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

MASS AT 10:00 am  
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Followed by a cuppa to  
celebrate!

**COME AND JOIN US!**

## Christmas Collection Thank You

To everyone who placed a donation in the collection during the Christmas masses, thank you! The total raised was \$1369 which enough to purchase all the mattresses required for the hostel.



## 2023 – Your Year to Volunteer at Mass!

Many positions are sitting without a volunteer on our weekly Mass Roster. If you are interested in helping at Mass, please speak with call the parish office or speak with Lydia in Greta and Mercia in Branxton. All new and existing volunteers need to complete the online volunteer registration form at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>. If you need help with this please come into the office and Erica can help.

## Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au)

## Useful Links

Here are some useful links and resources that may be new to you.

- Parish website: [www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au](http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au)
- Liturgy page – regularly updated [mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/](http://mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/)
- Faith formation page – regularly updated [mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/](http://mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/)
- <https://mnnews.today/> – Diocesan News Service
- <http://www.domnsynod.com.au/> – Information about the Diocesan Synod
- DoMN Library - <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library/>
- Subscribe to Diocesan Update eNewsletter <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/dio-update-e-newsletter/>
- Aurora Magazine articles online <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>
- Livestream Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday 9.30am <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream>

## Scriptural Context

### Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

## Living the Gospel

### Pointing the way

*John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.*

## Gospel Focus

### Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

### STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

*Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*

It was with great sadness that I learned of the unexpected death of Cardinal George Pell in Rome on Tuesday evening (Rome time). Cardinal Pell provided strong and clear leadership within the Catholic Church in Australia, as Archbishop of Melbourne and Archbishop of Sydney and as a member of the Bishops Conference for more than 25 years.

His many strengths were widely recognised, both in Australia and around the world, as his Vatican appointments as Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy and as a member of the Council of Cardinals, an advisory group to Pope Francis, testify.

Cardinal Pell's impact on the life of the Church in Australia and around the world will continue to be felt for many years. As we remember him and reflect on his legacy, I invite all Catholics and other people of goodwill to join in praying for Cardinal Pell, a man of deep and abiding faith, and for the repose of his soul.

January 11, 2023

Use the code key to decipher what John the Baptist knew about Jesus

