

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

22 January 2023

First Reading

Is 8:23-9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink? *(R.)*

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. *(R.)*

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out?

Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness

has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death

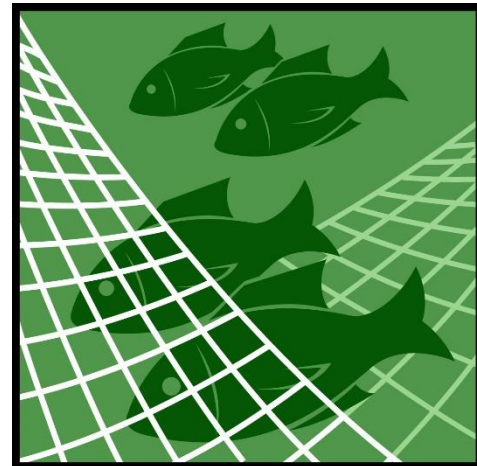
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



The Voice of Jesus

Two sets of two brothers were running successful family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and **called** them, the Gospel says, at **once** they left their boats and followed him. I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' *

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything for the chance to have **their** souls contoured along the same lines.

The call: 'Follow me ...', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

We could pause for a moment to hear the brothers beckoning us to follow the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*John O'Donohue, *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, Bantam Press, 246.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1st Reading: Zep 2:3, 3:12-13

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-31

Gospel: Mt 5:1-12



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Otis Cowburn, Victoria Diputado, Cathy Dunn (Goulburn), Austin Hoffman, Mary-Rose Hopkins, 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.**

Baptisms: Aurora Jones, Emilia Jones and Rayah Kirby (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
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		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 Madison Keevill	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Tricia Ellerbeck	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Woolley (*23/1)
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	SCAE LEADER	E Janssen	
Readers	C Trunk C Murray	D Lerch	P Boyd	*Volunteer Needed *Volunteer Needed	Janssen Family	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	*Volunteer Needed	E Janssen	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory		P Bridge	*Volunteer Needed	*Volunteer Needed		
Extraordinary Ministers						
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 23 January	Tuesday 24 January St Francis de Sales	Wednesday 25 January THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	Thursday 26 January AUSTRALIA DAY	Friday 27 January Sts Timothy & Titus St Angela Merici	Saturday 28 January St Thomas Aquinas	Sunday 29 January 4 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 6.00pm 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.

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

Have a Cuppa for Santo Nino!



PARISH FIESTA 2023 IN HONOUR OF SEÑOR SANTO NINO SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

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

Followed by a cuppa to
celebrate!

COME AND JOIN US!

Useful Links

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

- Parish website: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
- Liturgy page – regularly updated
mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/
- Faith formation page – regularly updated
mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/
- <https://mnnews.today/> – Diocesan News Service
- <http://www.domsynod.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-enewsletter/>
- 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>



Happy Lunar New Year - Tết Quý Mão

Wishing our Vietnamese Parishioners, a very Happy New Year

Chúc mừng năm mới

Some information about Tết:

- Tet celebrates the beginning of a new year as well the coming of spring.
- Celebrated as a time of renewal, Tet serves as an opportunity for Vietnamese people to pay homage to their ancestors and have family reunions.
- Tet is based on the lunar calendar, and generally celebrated on the same day as the Chinese New Year. This year it falls on Sunday 22 January.
- Tet celebrations can range from 3 days and continue for up to one week.
- The festival is split into the day before New Year's Eve, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.
- 2023 is the Vietnamese Year of the Cat and Chinese Year of the Rabbit.

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 without a volunteer on our weekly Mass Roster. If you are interested in helping at Mass, please speak with the parish office or speak with Lydia in Greta and Mercia in Brantton. 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.

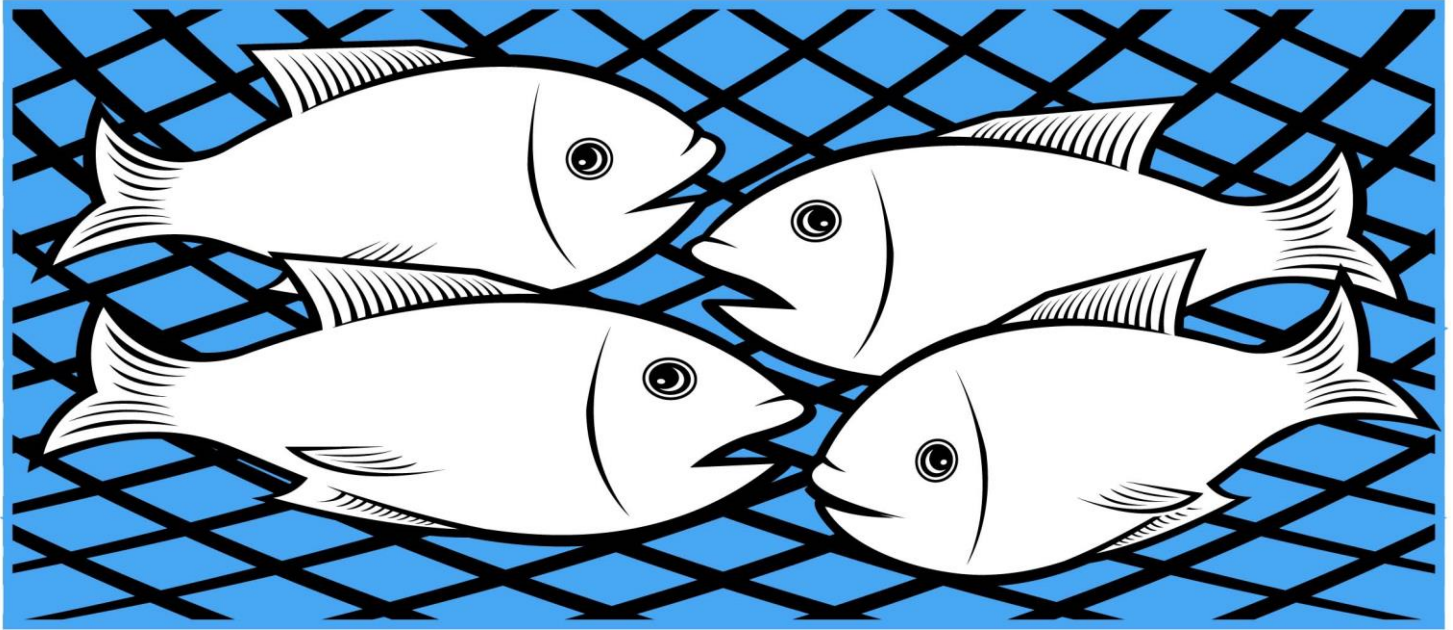
Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend

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



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The disciples were called by Jesus to bring people to God. Inside the fish write down some of the ways that we can bring people to God in our everyday lives.



from the perspective

the first called

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed.



Have you thought?

People in darkness

The passage from Isaiah that is quoted in the gospel, speaks of the people who dwell in darkness. The passage is addressed to the Jewish tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali – two of the twelve tribes. These two tribes lived in the northernmost part of Palestine and their lands were surrounded by Gentiles. Any non-Jew was regarded as living in darkness because they did not have the light of 'truth', but these two tribes also dwelt in darkness because they were surrounded by it. Regardless, the passage asserts that all who dwell in darkness (Gentile and Jew alike) will receive a great light.

from the perspective

the first called

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P E T E R F A Y W Q E D L R
L V G U U V T T K R S S J J
S H Z X C F I S H E R M E N
I Z D C S R H E A V E N W P
K M V H E A L G M K I W X N
K D L T V X R B G X V U T E
Q T V W D S J V Z J V A K T
V M A O O Y J U O U R K N S
Y N H P U Y K P W U E A H T
A P W M T B Z P C H P O J U
F A T H E R X P O N O U G H
H D R L U E Y U M J A M E S
O P S K J E U M E R I L R U
J D A W T W S E C L A K E Y
F C W G A L I L E E F I S H

Try to find these words:

come
father
fish
fishermen
Galilee
heal
heaven
James
lake
nets
Peter
two



WordSearch