

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12 February 2023

First Reading

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. *(R.)*

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *(R.)*

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. *(R.)*

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye

has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (shorter form)

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Truth-Telling

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an abuse.

Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person - the truthful person truthes.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13)

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: 'Teach them to keep all that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1st Reading: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 3:16-23

Gospel: Mt 5:38-48



Prayer Requests

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

Anniversaries: Anne Archinal, Pat Behringer, Joyce Ralston, Cecil Thomas and Daisy Tierney. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Helen Conlin and Andrew Humphreys. **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 |
| 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

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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| 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 19 FEBRUARY 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 Dries | J Brackenrig (14/2) |
| Commentator | | M Ingold | G Cattermole | | | |
| Readers | J Stafa S Stafa | D Lerch | SCAE LEADER C Spiteri D Thompson | T Cochrane *Volunteer Needed | Gresham Family | |
| Prayers | | M Ingold | P Boyd | *Volunteer Needed | J & A Phillips | Offertory procession and collections can commence again. |
| Offertory | K Jones K Jones | J Gorczyca | *Volunteer Needed | *Volunteer Needed | J & A Phillips | |
| Extraordinary Ministers | S Trunk | *Volunteer needed | *Volunteer needed | *Volunteer needed | *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 13 February | Tuesday 14 February <i>Sts Cyril & Methodius</i> | Wednesday 15 February | Thursday 16 February | Friday 17 February <i>Seven Founders of Servites</i> | Saturday 18 February | Sunday 19 February 7 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home | 9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 7.00am SCAE 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton |
| | 8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta | | NO 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.

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!

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 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.

Lenten Reflection Program

If you are interested in joining Lenten Reflection Group after Mass on Wednesdays in Singleton or after Mass on Thursdays in Branxton, please leave your name on the sheet at the back of the church. The Diocesan Reflection program 'Finding Light Within the Darkness' will be used. Groups will start from Ash Wednesday 22 February 2023.

2023 Lenten Reflection: Finding Light within the Darkness

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, *Finding Light within the Darkness*. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community. To access this resource, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2023/>

Branxton St Caritas Monthly Luncheon

All parishioners are invited for lunch on Friday 17 February and Friday 17 March 2023 at 12pm at the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. Come along and join a great group of people sharing a meal and conversation. For more information and to book a seat please phone Mercia on 0447 819 889.



Branxton Sacramental Program 2023

An Information Meeting will be held on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 5.30pm in St Catherine's Church, Greta for any children aged in Year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate with you on the night. If your child wishes to be baptised as part of the program please speak with the Team at the meeting.

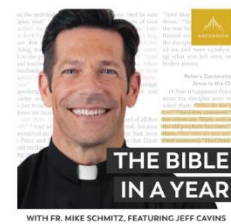
Bibles Available

Hard cover Good News Bibles are available for purchase from the Parish Office for \$20 each. If you wish to purchase, please come to the office or give Erica a call to order. These bibles make an ideal gift for Confirmation or First Holy Communion.

Bible in a Year

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st.

www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear



Caritas Middle East Emergency Appeal

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

aMeN caMiNo

The aMeN CaMiNo offers an opportunity to become a local pilgrim in your own diocese, to encounter God through nature, to escape from the busyness of life and to connect with others. During this one-hundred-kilometre experience you will walk with others over a variety of terrain, exploring bush, beach, lake and mountains. As the days pass and you experience self-emptying, an awakening of the senses is heightened, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the wonder and awe of God's creation. There will be many moments to reflect, pray, journal and be still, all within our very own Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. For more information, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/ Expression of Interest close on 24 February: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZysE5V5Fiy>

POPE FRANCIS NAMES NEW BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



The Holy Father has appointed Bishop Michael Kennedy, currently the Bishop of Armidale, as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Pope Francis made the official announcement at noon in Rome (10pm local time) on Thursday 2 February 2023.

Noting the appointment follows the untimely death of Bishop Bill Wright in November 2021, Bishop Kennedy said, 'I willingly and heartily accept this new appointment, knowing that like all new endeavours, it will hold both joys and challenges. To be the chief pastor leading a Diocese in worship, teaching, evangelisation, and governance is an awesome privilege and responsibility.'

'I am now looking forward to meeting and getting to know the priests and the people of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.'

Bishop Kennedy was born in Wagga Wagga and educated in Catholic schools. He gained a Diploma in Education from the Sydney Catholic College of Education and taught for several years at Xavier Catholic College in Albury, before commencing seminary studies at Vianney College in rural New South Wales. In 1994, he continued his academic studies in Rome, attaining a Licentiate in Sacred Theology and a Diploma in Mariology.

Ordained a priest in 1999, Bishop Kennedy has held a variety of positions across New South Wales, most recently serving as the Bishop of Armidale, a position he has held since 2011. Bishop Kennedy has also previously served in roles across education and as the Director of Vocations, reflecting his commitment to his motto 'Euntes Docete' (**Go out and teach**).

In announcing this appointment, it is noted Fr Greg Barker stays on in the position as the Diocesan Administrator until Bishop Kennedy is installed in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The date for the Oath of Office, Profession of Faith and Taking of Possession has been set as Friday 17 March 2023.

Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishop-kennedy-appointed-bishop-of-maitland-newcastle/>

Read a statement from Bishop Michael Kennedy

<http://armidale.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20220203-Statement-from-Bishop-Michael-Kennedy.pdf>