

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

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

**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**

**19 February 2023**

**First Reading**

**Lv 19:1-2, 17-18**

*A reading from the book of Leviticus*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8**

*(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.  
*(R.)*

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. *(R.)*

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.  
*(R.)*

**Second Reading**

**1 Cor 3:16-23**

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he

knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**1 Jn 2:5**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Mt 5:38-48**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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



**Warfare and the Church**

*'Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.' Is Jesus advocating rather static fault-less-ness? Not very appealing! No, the Greek word is closer to the idea of a perfect wine – one that has matured and has reached its full potential. So, Our Lord is saying, 'Be a person who is everything you are capable of being.'*

*Our Lord gives a striking example of the challenge. God does not withhold life-giving sun and rain from people because they are bad or dishonest, nor extinguish the life of human beings because they are evil, because they are enemies.*

*What are the implications for Church teaching on capital punishment or warfare? Note that Jesus' command: 'You must be ...' is directed to You in the plural. It is communal, social. The Church community must listen. Is the Holy Spirit moving us in a direction not experienced since its first three centuries?*

*We could pause for a moment to pray on behalf of those who want to do us harm, the better to hear: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful  
with me.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

First Sunday of Lent, Year A  
**1st Reading:** Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
**2nd Reading:** Rom 5:12-19  
**Gospel:** Mt 4:1-11



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Otis Cowburn, 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:** Edna Tierney, Gloria Trunk and Edna Wilton. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Victoria Diputado. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Oliver & Sophia Skowron and Ayla & Hallie Duncan (Branxton). Ebony & Imogen Bakker, Lucas Hughes and Anne Hunter (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	<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>
Parish Secretary	<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>
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
Singleton	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
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: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	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	Director: Ms Madison Keevill	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Tricia Ellerbeck	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023**

	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	J Dries	G McMillan (21/2)
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	<b>SCAE LEADER</b>		
<b>Readers</b>	C Harvey C Szumilas	K Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	F Cantrall	A Skardon	<b>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	S McAlister M Thomas	P Bridge	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	Skardon Family	
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>		<b>*Volunteer needed</b>	<b>*Volunteer needed</b>	<b>*Volunteer needed</b>	<b>*Volunteer needed</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		L Gorczyca				

*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
20 February	21 February St Peter Damian	22 February ASH WEDNESDAY	23 February St Polycarp	24 February	25 February	26 February 1 <sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS St Catherine's Greta	6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	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.

## **Parish Office Update**

Many of you will have heard that Fr Thomas' brother, Joseph Chirackal, passed away last Sunday at the age of 89. Fr Thomas flew home to India to be with his family on Tuesday and he will return on Friday 10 March. During this time Fr John Tobin will say Mass on the weekends for us and on Ash Wednesday. Weekday Singleton Mass (including Saturday morning) will be changed to Lay-lead Liturgy of the Word service and Greta and Branxton weekday Mass will be cancelled. Thank you to Fr John for being with us during this time.

The Parish Office hours will change slightly next week – the office will be OPEN Monday (20 Feb) and CLOSED Friday (24 Feb).

## **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. Copies of the program are available at each church. If you missed getting a copy, please contact the parish office.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to St Catherine's Catholic College, teacher **Joanna Towers**, who was awarded the Emmaus Award in recognition of her significant contribution as a VET Teacher at last week's Called to Serve Mass.

Big celebration this week also for Singleton Parishioner, **Maureen Anderson**, who reached the grand age of 90! May God bless you with health and happiness always Maureen!

## **Branxton Parish Finance Update**

St Brigid's Church in Branxton will receive a fresh coat of paint internally next month thanks to a generous bequest left to the parish. The contract for work was awarded to Topaz Dynamics Pty Ltd who will also strip back the floor in the sacristy and install a handrail up to the altar.

A second rental property has been purchased by the Branxton Parish in a strata complex at 5 Maitland St, East Branxton. One unit has a new tenant, and the other is being advertised for rent. The sale of the land in Station Street between the old convent and the old presbytery is in the process of being finalized with conditions needing to be met for the subdivision before it can be completed. The sale of this land will assist with the repayment of the loan for the rental unit.

Thank you to the Branxton Finance Council for helping to secure the long-term financial stability of the Parish.



## **Singleton Sacramental Program 2023**

An Information Meeting will be held on Monday 20 February 2023 at 5.30pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton 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.

## **Branxton St Caritas Monthly Luncheon**

All parishioners are invited for lunch on 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.

## **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/](http://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/](http://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>

## **Mission: Change Their Lives – and Yours!**

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know by ringing 02 9560 5333 or online at [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



Palms Australia



# Project Compassion Sunday

## 18 and 19 February 2023



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and ***For All Future Generations***.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can donate via

- Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes at the church
- By visiting <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/singleton-catholic-parish>
- By calling 1800 024 413.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

### PREPARED BY WOMEN OF TAIWAN



You are invited to join in fellowship with our local churches for this year's World Day of Prayer which will be held on Friday 3 March 2023 at the following locations:

- **St John's Anglican Church, Cessnock Road, Branxton at 10am**  
*(Please bring a plate to share for morning tea)*
- **Seventh Day Adventist Church, Doyle Street, Singleton at 7pm**



The theme of the worship service *“I Have Heard About Your Faith,”* based on the letter to the Ephesians, is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

The worship service shares the letters of encouragement sent to women who faced suffering and injustice. Their stories of faith contemplate issues that are shared by women and girls around the world and that continue to challenge us to prayerful action.

They remind us of the urgency to protect the environment and have a nuclear-free homeland; to be aware of the gender stereotypes women face when defying the traditional role in the workplace or in the family, and to care for the healing of the victims of verbal and sexual abuses. It also brings to light the hidden struggle of the essential workers during the pandemic who had to balance between work and family in a vulnerable economic situation. The sisters thank God for the natural resources of the island and pray for wisdom in face of the political isolation of Taiwan in the international community. They ask for our prayers.