

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A**

**26 March 2023**

**First Reading Ez 37:12-14**  
*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

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

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R v.7**

*(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. *(R.)*

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. *(R.)*

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak And Israel on the Lord.). *(R.)*

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *(R.)*

**Second Reading Rom 8:8-11**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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

**Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25, 26**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (shorter form)*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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



### **REFLECTION**

#### **Rage against Death**

*This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.*

*But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.*

*You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.*

*We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be the Resurrection and the Life.*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is  
faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Palm Sunday, Year A

**1st Reading:** Is 50:4-7

**2nd Reading:** Phil 2:6-11

**Gospel:** Mt 26:14-27:66



# Prayer Requests

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

**Recently Deceased:** Shirley (Bobbie) Stacey. **May light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Anniversaries:** Gary Atkins, Ryan Pulcher, Frank McAlister, Arlene Thomas. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Hayes Butterfield and Jonathan Baillie. **Called by name to be a child of God.**

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

*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 9653	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	<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
<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	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	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	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	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	<b>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<b>Director: Ms Tricia Ellerbeck</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 26 MARCH 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
<b>Commentator</b>	SCAE LEADER	L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	J Stafa S Stafa C Trunk	M Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	SCAE LEADER R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	F Cantrall	A Skardon	<b>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>		P Bridge	<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.*

**WEEKLY MASS DIARY**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 March	28 March	29 March	30 March	31 March	1 April	2 April
8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	5.15pm <b>Reconciliation</b> 6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am <b>Anointing Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am <b>Mass</b> 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am <b>Mass</b> 10.00am <b>Mass</b> 6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am <b>Rosary</b> 9.20am <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta	5.30pm <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> (Children)	9.20am <b>Anointing Mass</b> 10.00am <b>Reconciliation</b> St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am <b>Rosary</b> 8.15am <b>Mass</b> 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.

## **Lenten Reconciliation**

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the most natural way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love. You are invited to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in preparation for Easter on Thursday 30 March 2023 after the 9.20am Anointing Mass in St Brigid's Church, Branxton and at 5.15pm at St Patrick's Church Singleton.

## **St Patrick's Parish 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass**

St Patrick's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 1 April 2023 at 9.20am. Our prayers will be for the soul of John Holz. At 9am each Saturday, St Patrick's Parish holds a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We would like to invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

## **Chrism Mass**

This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Tuesday 4 April at 7pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. This is the first opportunity for all who wish to gather, to celebrate with our new Bishop Michael Kennedy at Mass and light supper. All welcome. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/chrism2023>



## **Parish Sacramental Programs 2023**

Please keep the children of the Parish Sacramental Programs in your prayers as they complete their final preparations before receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in Branxton on Wednesday 29 March.

Dates for Confirmation have now been received from the Bishop's Office. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred in Branxton Parish on Friday 2 June at 6pm and in Singleton on Friday 9 June at 6.30pm. All families involved in the program should have received this information via email. Please contact the office if you have not received an email.

## **Bishop Visit to Singleton Parish**

Singleton Parishioners are encouraged to mark their diaries for a visit from Bishop Michael Kennedy over the weekend of 9/10/11 June 2023. There will be opportunities to meet with Bishop Michael over the weekend, so stay tuned for more details. A date for Branxton Parish will be set later in the year.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday – 16 April 2023**

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. You are invited to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3pm in St Catherine's Church, Greta and St Patrick's Church, Singleton.

## **St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting**

The monthly meeting of St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 12 April 2023 from 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres Singleton Heights, please enter via Wilcox Ave for easier access. All welcome and new members encouraged!

## **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.

## **Catholic Mission 2023 Conference**

If you strive for justice, peace, reconciliation and God's mission of love and mercy in Australia and globally, please join us for the Mission: one heart many voices conference, 3-5 May 2023, SMC Conference Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney. Lead Act Now. The event offers a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. Above all, the conference is a time to read the signs of the time with an aim of affirming what we do well, nurturing our growth and rethink and reformulate how we effectively live and lead mission today and tomorrow. Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/mission-one-heart-many-voices-conference>

## PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

### **MOST REVEREND MICHAEL KENNEDY**

O God, who tend your Church in countless ways

And rule over her in love,

Grant, we pray, that Michael, your servant,

Whom you have set at the head

of your Church of Maitland-Newcastle,

may preside in the place of Christ

over the flock whose shepherd he is,

and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine,

a priest of sacred worship

and as one who serves them by governing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

*Amen*

**Installed as Ninth Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle  
17 March 2023**



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu.

Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future generations.



### Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

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

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your church, by phoning 1800 024 413 or by visiting <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/singleton-catholic-parish>

HOLY WEEK				
	<p><b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> 6 April</p> <p>Singleton 6.30pm Branxton 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>Good Friday</b> 7 April</p> <p><b>Stations of the Cross</b> Branxton 10.00am Singleton 11.00am</p> <p><b>Passion of the Lord</b> Singleton 3.00pm Greta 3.00pm</p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b> 8 April</p> <p>Singleton 6.45pm</p> <p>Greta Easter Basket Blessing 6.00pm</p> <p>Branxton 6.45pm</p>	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b> 9 April</p> <p>Greta 8.15am</p> <p>Singleton 10.00am</p>

*"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence."*

Pope Francis - 20 Feb 2023