

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

2 April 2023

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem
Mt 21:1-11
(Outside the church)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately'.

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'

And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

First Reading **Is 50:4-7**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;

I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' *(R.)*

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. *(R.)*

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! *(R.)*

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' *(R.)*

Second Reading **Phil 2:6-11**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality
with God but emptied himself to assume the
condition of a slave, and became as men
are, and being as all men are, he was
humbler yet, even to accepting death, death
on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the
name which is above all other names so
that all beings in the heavens, on earth and
in the underworld, should bend the knee
in the name of Jesus and that every tongue
should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Phil 2:8-9**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**
**Christ became obedient for us even to
death dying on the cross.**
**Therefore God raised him on high and
gave him a name above all other names.**
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**

Gospel **Mt 26:14 - 27:66**
(see booklet)



Lowly Prince of Peace

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support. On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

See notices section of Bulletin.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

2nd Reading: Col 3:1-4

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9



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.**

Anniversaries: Sr Mary Markham. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Isabelle Hopper and Travis Orr (Branxton) and Luca Bendeich (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Welcome to the Church: Marcia Drain (Singleton).

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 9653	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

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 9 APRIL 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		J Dries		
Commentator		L Harrison				
Readers	Easter Volunteers	D Lerch		Easter Volunteers		
Prayers		L Harrison		Easter Volunteers		<i>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</i>
Offertory	Easter Volunteers	T Ernst		Easter Volunteers		
Extraordinary Ministers						
Rosary Leader		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
3 April <i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	4 April <i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	5 April <i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	6 April <i>Thursday of Holy Week</i>	7 April <i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</i>	8 April <i>Holy Saturday Easter Vigil</i>	9 April EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	NO MASS Singleton 7.00pm Chrism Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St Patrick's Singleton	11.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Passion St Patrick's Singleton	6.45pm Easter Vigil Mass St Patrick's Singleton	10.00am Easter Sunday Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St Brigid's Branxton	10.00am Stations of the Cross St Brigid's Branxton 3.00pm Passion St Catherine's Greta	6.45pm Easter Vigil Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Easter Sunday 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.

Entrance Antiphon for Palm Sunday

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

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>

Donations for Easter Decorations

If you would like to make a donation towards the altar decorations in Singleton for Easter, please see Frieda King.

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.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles group monthly lunch will be held on Tuesday 11 April 2023 from 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any senior singles are welcome to join the group for conversation over a meal.

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!

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time

With the end of Daylight Savings, Singleton Parish evening Masses will change to **5pm** from **Tuesday 11 April 2023**. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening, Broke and Glendonbrook masses.

Branxton Vigil Mass will remain at 6pm.



St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

St. Brigid's Caritas Group will this year celebrate 30 years of being active in the Parish. Please join us for lunch on Friday 21 April 2023 for 12pm at Miller Park. All welcome. If you wish to attend phone Mercia 0447 819 889.

2024 School Enrolments Now Open

If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2024, you should attend one of our open days. Visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/ for more information.

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>

Good Friday Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, 7 April 2023. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million [compared to \$1,126,098 (2021) \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you. **Envelopes are available at each church to make your Good Friday donation.**

PASSION SUNDAY

Write down what you know about the procession of palms.





Caritas Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday) 1 & 2 April 2023



Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It's through the generous support of people like you that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever.

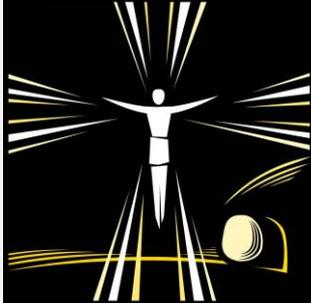
Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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

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

Pope Francis - 20 Feb 2023