

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

**2nd Sunday of Easter, Year A**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**16 April 2023**

**First Reading Acts 2:42-47**  
*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1**

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)

I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9**  
*A reading from the first letter of St Peter.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when

Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;**  
**happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn 20:19-31**

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'  
After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are

not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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



**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**  
**Undoubtable Wounds**

*Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'*

*Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the identity of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'*

*Pope Francis says we can only join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.*

*We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise, we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.*

*Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith. We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'*

# Prayer Requests

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Year A

**1st Reading:** Acts 2:14, 22-33

**2nd Reading:** 1 Pt 1: 17-21

**Gospel:** Lk 24:13-35

**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:** Eddie Goodwin, Mark Holz, John Thomas, Julia Tope. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Janette Hebbe, Garry 'Razza' Maher and Michael O'Connor. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Addilyn Samuel (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Marriage:** Gabrielle Scarf and Tom Freeman, 22 April 2023, 3pm, St Patrick's Singleton. **What God has joined let no one put asunder.**

*Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put 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>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Patrick's Parish</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>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Brigid's Parish</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 Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		G McMillan
<b>Commentator</b>	SCAE LEADER	K Ingold	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	P Conroy M Thomas	L Harrison	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		K Ingold	E Thomas	F Cantrall	A Skardon	Welcomers are required each week.
<b>Offertory</b>	C & A Trunk	P Bridge			Skardon Family	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
17 April	18 April	19 April	20 April	21 April St Anselm	22 April	23 April 3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton  5.00pm Mass Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm SCAE 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 Hours**

The Parish Office will be CLOSED Thursday 20 April 2023. The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

## **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 Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Singleton from 1-3pm.

## **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.

## **Sr Paula Redgrove Jubilee Mass**

Sr Paula Redgrove will be celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee with Mass in St Brigid's Church, Branxton on Sunday 16 April 2023 at 11am. An invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend followed by a gathering and sharing of stories at Miller Park Hotel, Branxton. *Congratulations and may God bless Sr Paula for her service to the Church.*

## **Missing Wedding Ring**

A wide gold wedding band in the vicinity of St Patrick's Church. If found, please hand in at the Parish Office.

## **Sacred@Seven**

Join the Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People for Sacred@Seven on Weds 19 April at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Fr Peter Street will preside over the event as we explore the hidden treasures of spending time together with each other and with the Lord. Join us afterwards for a light supper and conversation.

## **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>

## **Paint and Pray with Mary this May**

Join us this May as we honour and pray with Mary through the practice of painting and reflection. On Saturday 27 May at MacKillop Centre, Charlestown, participants will be guided step by step to create their own Marian icon and invited into contemplation and prayer through this process. You will need to bring an apron, BYO snacks and drinks for the afternoon. Cost is \$35 for materials; participants will take home their own framed Marian icon. Spaces are limited, booking is essential. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/paint-and-pray-may-2023-tickets-595235353967>

## **Engaging Your Faith**

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics including Philosophy, Lumen Gentium, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Christian Meditation, Theology, Interfaith Relations, Future Technology, and Science and Religion. Cost \$25 per session or \$40 per session for teachers seeking accreditation. To register go to: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

## **'Anointed': MGL Sisters Pentecost Retreat**

Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion, and practical workshops. Join us from 24-28 May, for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More info and to register: [www.trybooking.com/CFBRE](http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE)

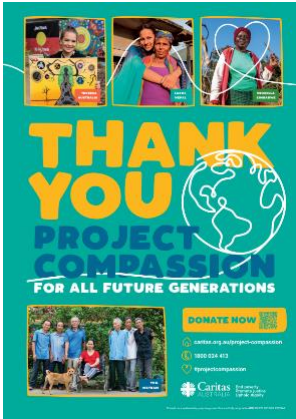
## **The Chosen Experience – Season 2**

We invite you to join us in soaking up to the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view the second season about the life of Christ. The Chosen is a series which brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness such a transformation of each of his first followers. Each Thursday evening join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode. The Chosen Experience commences on 27 April at 6pm in the Murray Room. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-tickets-595299666327>

## **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/](http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/) for more information.





Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, **please bring them back next week** or visit <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/singleton-catholic-parish> and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

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## HOW TO PRAY THE



# Chaplet of Divine Mercy

● FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SORROWFUL PASSION, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD.

● ETERNAL FATHER, I OFFER YOU THE BODY AND BLOOD, SOUL AND DIVINITY OF YOUR DEARLY BELOVED SON, OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, IN ATONEMENT FOR OUR SINS AND THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

● APOSTLES CREED  
● HAIL MARY  
● OUR FATHER

✕  
*Start*

*Finally*



● HOLY GOD, HOLY MIGHTY ONE, HOLY IMMORTAL ONE, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD. (REPEAT 3 TIMES)