

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Good Shepherd Sunday

30 April 2023

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

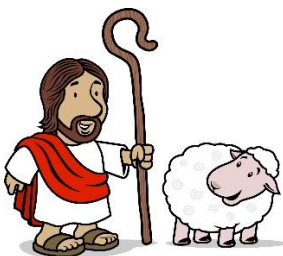
**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**



Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25
A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

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



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

The Shepherd's Voice

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the thief from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a brigand, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.

Alleluia!

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Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

5th Sunday of Easter – Year A

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 2:4-9

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

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: Barbara Jones. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Jennifer Partridge, Marie Clarke. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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	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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish			
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilus	K Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	Partridge Family	T Ernst	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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
1 May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	2 May <i>St Athanasius</i>	3 May STS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES	4 May t	5 May	6 May	7 May 5 th SUNDAY OF EASTER
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>5.30pm</u> Confirmation Meeting	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.20am</u> Adoration <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> 1st Anniversary Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <i>May Crowning</i> <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	NO MASS <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>5.30pm</u> Reconciliation <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

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 Tuesday 2 May 2023 while we attend a meeting about the upcoming Safeguarding policy audit.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to Fr John Tobin for celebrating Mass with our Branxton Parish community at Easter. Fr John has also kindly agreed to say Mass during May and June so there won't be a need to have *Sunday Celebration in Anticipation of the Eucharist* (SCAE). Please make sure you say Hi when you see him!

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.

Missing Wedding Ring – FOUND!

The wedding ring that had been missing has been found! Thank you to everyone for looking and for your prayers to help find it.

St Patrick's Parish 1st Anniversary Mass

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 6 May 2023 at 9.20am. Our prayers will be for the souls of *Mary Petrie and Sr Gladys Gardner RSM*.

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.

Senior Singles Lunch

The next Senior Singles lunch will be held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 12.00pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. All are welcome.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale 23 Oldknow Crescent Singleton Heights. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

May Crowning: May is the Month of Mary

May is traditionally the month where we honour Mary with flowers, so to honour and celebrate our Blessed Mother this May, on 7 May 2023 at the 10am Mass in St Patrick's Church Singleton, we are celebrating a May Crowning. We will crown the statue of the Virgin Mary with a crown of flowers. There will also be an offering of flowers where those who feel so inclined are encouraged to bring flowers to be offered to Our Lady as a symbol of our love for her.

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 19 May 2023 and Friday 23 June 2023 for 12pm at Miller Park. All welcome. If you wish to attend phone Mercia 0447 819 889.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Greta

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea will be held in the Parish Room at St. Catherine's, Greta on Sunday 21 May 2023 commencing at 9.00am (after 8.00am Mass).

This is a fundraiser for Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs. Entry is via a donation at the door. Everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for morning tea. For more information, please contact Joy Clarke on 0439 381 372.

MacKillop Place Pilgrimage

This year's pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place will be on Friday 21 July 2023. Save the date! More details will be provided soon. Contact Mercia on 0447 819 889 for more details.

Mission: Transform Lives – Palms Australia



Palms Australia

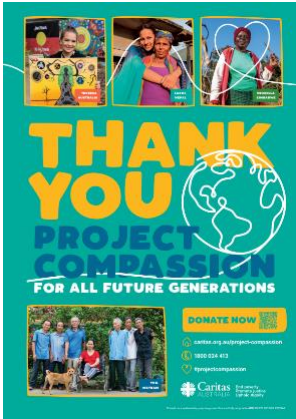
Communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Explore 35 positions by visiting: www.palms.org.au/current-opportunities/ On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. For more information, call 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit www.palms.org.au.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Tighes Hill – Open Day

On Sunday 21 May 2023 there will be an Open Day at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tighes Hill. From 10am to 3pm, you can visit the church and its grounds. On the same day, the Community Garden will also be open. From 10am you're invited to come along, visit the garden, and paint some plant pots. At 12pm the church will Angelus and pray with Mary for world peace before there is a free Sausage Sizzle from 1pm sponsored by the Catholic Community Fund. Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217 for more info. Later in the day, there will also be an Interfaith Service for Creation at 3pm followed by afternoon tea. Contact John on 0400 171 602 for more info.





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 to Mass or the Parish Office by 7 May 2023** or visit <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/singleton-catholic-parish> and donate online.

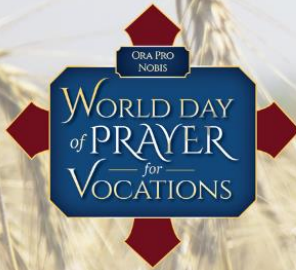
Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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>

THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; SO ASK THE MASTER OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS FOR HIS HARVEST.

LK 10:2



Sunday
APRIL 30, 2023

Pope John Paul II's Prayer for Vocations

Holy and provident Father, you are the Lord of the vineyard and the harvest, and You give each a just reward for their work. In your design of love, you call men and women to work with You for the salvation of the world. We thank You for Jesus Christ, your living Word, who has redeemed us from our sins and is among us to assist us in our poverty. Guide the flock to which You have promised possession of the kingdom. Send new workers into your harvest and set in the hearts of pastors' faithfulness to your plan of salvation, perseverance in their vocation and holiness of life.

Christ Jesus, who on the shores of the Sea of Galilee called the Apostles and made them the foundation of the Church and bearers of your Gospel, in our day, sustain your people on its journey. Give courage to those whom You call to follow You in the priesthood and the consecrated life, so that they may enrich God's field with wisdom of your Word. Make them docile instruments of your love in everyday service of their brothers and sisters.

Spirit of holiness, who pour out your gifts on all believers and, especially, on those called to be Christ's ministers, help young people to discover the beauty of the divine call. Teach them the true way of prayer, which is nourished by the Word of God. Help them to read the signs of the times, so as to be faithful interpreters of your Gospel and bearers of salvation.

Mary, Virgin who listened and Virgin of the Word of God made flesh in your womb, help us to be open to the Word of the Lord, so that, having been welcomed and meditated upon, it may grow in our hearts. Help us to live like You the beatitudes of believers and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity to evangelizing all those who seek your Son. Grant that we may serve every person, becoming servants of the Word we have heard, so that remaining faithful to it we may find our happiness in living it. Amen