

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

7 May 2023

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the

keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord;**

**no one comes to the Father,
except through me.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:1-12

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

6th Sunday of Easter – Year A

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

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: Elizabeth Alexander. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Keily Goodyer (Branxton), Noah Johnston, Iris Graham, Zoe Moberg (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

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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)			
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)			
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 14 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		J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen N Janssen H Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	M Thomas S McAlister	J Groczyca	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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 8 May	Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May <i>St John De Avila</i>	Thursday 11 May	Friday 12 May <i>Sts Nereus & Achilles St Pancras</i>	Saturday 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	Sunday 14 May 6 th 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	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass 6.45pm Supper with Bishop Michael St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Mass 9.00am Morning Tea with Bishop Michael 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 OPEN Monday 8 May 2023 and CLOSED Friday 12 May 2023.

Bishop Visit to Branxton Parish

Branxton Parishioners are encouraged to come along to Mass next weekend 13/14 May 2023 to meet with Bishop Michael Kennedy. Your hospitality will be appreciated to make his visit very welcoming! Spread the word with those not at Mass this weekend.

- There will be a supper after Mass on Saturday evening in Branxton. There will be some hot food to have while you have a chat. For catering purposes please RSVP to Ernie at Mass or on 0407 159 094.
- After Mass on Sunday in Greta there will be a morning tea with the Bishop. There will be cake to share with a cuppa while you chat.

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.

Mother's Day Prayers

If you have a mother who has passed away who you would like remembered in the prayers for next Sunday, please call the Parish Office 5507 4048 or email their name to singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

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, today, 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.

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.

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.

Rosary Beads for the Month of Mary

The Bene Maria Sisters in Tanzania earn income during the month of May by making and selling rosary beads. These rosaries are in high demand during the Month of Mary. \$100 will be donated from the Hope Tree Group account to be used for materials or to purchase pre-made rosary beads so they can keep up with demand. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Hope Tree Group in the past.





LAST WEEK FOR RETURNING BOXES

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 8 May 2023.**

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>



Hope Tree Project 13 – Playground for Anugraha School

Anugraha special school for the mentally challenged was started in 2000. The school is managed by Sangli Mission Society of MST Missionaries. The name Anugraha means Blessing.

The school is situated in a remote village named Khed, in the state of Maharashtra, India. After a survey in the area in 2000, it was found that there are many mentally challenged children who have no access to education or other services.

It was after the findings of this survey that the Sangli mission society decided to open the school to serve these children. At present there are 55 students at the school. Students are given training in ADL (activities of daily living), physiotherapy, speech therapy etc.

Students are from poor families, so they are only able to contribute very little towards the fees. The school relies on donations from benefactors to continue teaching the students and stay open. They do not receive any government grants towards running of the school.

The first principal of the school was Sr Rosebel. In 2001 she put up a playground for the students. After serving the school for about 15 years she was transferred to another school in Kerala state. Now she has come back to the school and found all the play equipment for the children in a dilapidated condition. She wants to repair and make a better playground for the students.

The cost to replace the existing equipment will total \$3500 AUD. Huge thank you to **St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton** who have already raised \$1256.85 from out of uniform days at the school. This leaves a balance of \$2243.15. Sr Rosebel is so grateful for any assistance that can be given.

Our Hope Tree Group donation boxes will be out at Mass this weekend and next to take any donations you may wish to give towards this project.

