

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Mother's Day

14 May 2023

First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!
(R.)

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)



Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:15-21

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth whom the world can
never receive since it neither sees nor
knows him; but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer
see me; but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am
in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my
commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved
by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to
him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-ll-el. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

If you love me, keep my commandments, says
the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will
send you another Paraclete, to abide with you
for ever, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Ascension of the Lord – Year A

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

Please remember in your prayers...

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: Ian Tope, Geoffrey Tope, Margaret Trunk and Patrick Slattery. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Donald Edwards. **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
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 Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 21 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		G McMillan
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole			
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk S Stafa	L Harrison	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Phillips	<i>Welcomers are required each week.</i>
Offertory	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	P Bridge	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
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 15 May	Tuesday 16 May	Wednesday 17 May	Thursday 18 May St John I	Friday 19 May	Saturday 20 May St Bernadine of Siena	Sunday 21 May ASCENSION OF THE LORD
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> NO MASS St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

Bishop Visit to Branxton Parish

A very warm welcome to Bishop Michael who is visiting the Branxton parish this weekend! It is also the bishop's birthday on Saturday – we wish you a very happy day!

- There will be a supper after Mass on Saturday evening in Branxton with hot food supplied.
- 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.

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. Bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am picking up at Greta/Lochinvar/Rutherford/East Maitland. Cost will be \$60 which includes bus and museum tour and upgraded morning tea at North Ryde RSL. Bus will leave Sydney at 3pm. All are welcome! Contact Mercia on 0447 819 889 to book your spot and names and money to be finalised by 6 July 2023.

Offertory Roster Volunteers

Now that restrictions have ceased, the rosters need to be filled with volunteers to bring the Offertory gifts forward during Mass. If you would like to fill this ministry in Singleton, please place your name on the roster on the noticeboard. In Branxton, please speak with Mercia or Sue and in Greta please speak with Lydia. St Patrick's rosters also have some ministries that need volunteers. Please see the rosters and place your name in the vacant spots.

Parish Councils

If you are interested in joining the *Parish Pastoral Council* or the *Parish Finance Council*, please speak with Fr Thomas for more information and to register your interest.

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.

Office of Safeguarding

The Office of Safeguarding is the organisational expression of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable persons. The Office of Safeguarding is an integral part of the Diocese, reporting directly to the Bishop's Office. The Office of Safeguarding is placed outside the Diocese's services, programmes and parishes, overseeing their safeguarding standards in operation. The Office of Safeguarding works with external statutory and Catholic authorities to fulfil its role. For more information and to access the many resources provided by the Office of Safeguarding visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

In Loving Memory of Our Mothers

God, our Mother and our Father,
look with favour on all those we call 'mother'.
Bless them and keep them as they bless and keep us.
We make this prayer through Mary, who intercedes for us.
Amen.

Lorraine Edwards

Veronica Cox

Alison Burgess

Teresa Burgess

Vera Bishton

Keyna Campbell

Valda Crothers

Aileen Behringer

Pat Behringer

Dulcie Standing

Clara Thoma

Marjorie Bendeich

Lorna Merrick

Daisy Tierney

Edna Tierney

Tina Janssen

Boris Miller



Blessing Prayer for Mother's

Lord God,
through your creative power you give birth to all
and love all as a mother loves her child.
Bless these women who are mothers.

When they worry for their child, *hold them in your care.*
When they work to provide a home for their child,
stand beside them.

If they mourn for their child, *hold them in your love.*
When the joy of their child overtakes them, *laugh with them.*

Bless them, and may they each be a living symbol of your love;
a symbol to their children and all who they encounter.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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. Last weekend a further \$338 was added to this Project.

