

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

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year A

11 June 2023

First Reading

Dt 8:2-3, 14-16

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12

(R.) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. **(R.)**

He has established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **(R.)**

He makes his word known to Jacob,
To Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 10:16-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sequence – on back page

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Jn 6:51-58

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man

and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live

for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

The Maternal Jesus

I once saw a young mother discreetly breastfeeding her baby during Mass, and thought ... 'What a wonderful thing!' There could not be a better illustration, a better acting out of what Jesus says in today's Gospel: 'The one who eats me will live.'

Of course, even mothers who find they cannot breastfeed offer the same gift for nine months as the baby draws its life from the mother's body in the womb.

This is a good analogy for what Our Lord was teaching in today's Gospel.

'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.' Notice the very maternal language. The risen Lord truly abides in us, we truly abide in the risen Lord. This is as intimate as the baby dwelling in the womb of its mother.

Moreover, it is a Holy communion which is both a present reality and a foretaste and promise about our place in God's future: 'The one who eats this bread will live forever.'

We could pause for a moment to pray with St Thomas Aquinas: 'Oh Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received and a pledge of future glory is given to us.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Ex 19:2-6
2nd Reading: Rom 5:6-11
Gospel: Mt 9:36 – 10:8

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Prayer Requests
Sick: *Phuong Ho, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, Jen Phillips, and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

Anniversaries: *Tina Janssen, Cyril Kealy and Greg Redgrove. Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Marivic De la Cruz Delisay 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 singletonbranxton
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: 0437 374 929
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: Parish Office
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<i>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<i>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</i>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<i>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</i>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 18 JUNE 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			
Readers	H Hartcher S Trunk	D Lerch	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	<i>Welcomers are required each week.</i>
Offertory	C & A Trunk	P Bridge	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	
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
12 June	13 June <i>St Anthony of Padua</i>	14 June	15 June	16 June <i>THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS</i>	17 June <i>Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	18 June <i>11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<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> Mass & Adoration St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Mercy Home	<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> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Family Mass with Rosary Park 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 Singleton Parish

Welcome to Bishop Michael Kennedy who is visiting the Singleton Parish this weekend. Parishioners are invited to join the bishop for a cuppa and a chat after 7am and 10am Mass.

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.

Eucharistic Adoration - St Patrick's Church

Eucharistic Adoration will be held after Friday morning Mass each week in June. All are welcome.

Adoration will be held on Sunday from 2.30-4.30pm for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Please join us to spend some time in prayer.

Senior Singles Lunch

The next Senior Singles lunch will be held on Tuesday 13 June 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 14 June 2023 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

You are invited to join St. Brigid's Caritas Group as they officially celebrate their 30th birthday with lucky door prizes and cake at lunch on Friday 23 June 2023 for 12pm at Miller Park. All welcome. If you wish to attend phone Mercia 0447 819 889.

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 lunch at North Ryde RSL. Fr Thomas will be joining the pilgrimage and will say Mass in the chapel. 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

Volunteers are needed 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.

Mission: Transform Lives – 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.



Palms Australia

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.

Explore Evangelisation – Toronto Parish

Join us as we explore:

Evangelisation

All Welcome!

Saturday
17th June

Time: 10:00 am - 1:30pm
At: St Joseph's School Hall
140 Wangi Rd, Toronto
Cost: Free

How can we share our faith with others?
Why do we need a missionary focus?

To register, email:
torparish@mn.catholic.org.au
by Sunday 11th June.

Deacon Peter Pellicaan
Executive Director of the
Evangelisation Team in Brisbane

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Marriage Tribunal

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses associated with marriage breakdown and divorce and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness and hospital procedures. It is conducted over six Mondays from 9am to 4pm. A certificate is awarded on completion. The course starts on 17 July and goes until 21 August. Registration due by 1 July. For more information contact Fr. Roger Zohrab - Pastoral Care Coordinator. Mob 0408 151 481 roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au

NAIDOC Week Community Day

Singleton Council will be holding a Community Day for NAIDOC week on Wednesday 5 July 2023 from 10am-2pm at Singleton Showground. The day will start with a welcome ceremony and there will be a free BBQ, cultural activities, koorioke, jumping castles, 30+ services and community stalls and an Elders Tent. Cessnock City Council and Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation will host a NAIDOC Family Fun Day on Saturday 8 July 2023 from 10am-2pm at Darwin St, Cessnock. For more details please contact Cessnock City Council.

Sequence

Sing forth, O Zion, sweetly sing
The praises of thy Shepherd-King,
In hymns and canticles divine;
Dare all thou canst, thou hast no song
Worthy his praises to prolong,
So far surpassing powers like thine.

Today no theme of common praise
Forms the sweet burden of thy lays –
The living, life-dispensing food –
That food which at the sacred board
Unto the brethren twelve our Lord
His parting legacy bestowed.

Then be the anthem clear and strong,
Thy fullest note, thy sweetest song,
The very music of the breast:
For now shines forth the day sublime
That brings remembrance of the time
When Jesus first his table blessed.

Within our new King's banquet-hall
They meet to keep the festival
That closed the ancient paschal rite:
The old is by the new replaced;
The substance hath the shadow chased;
And rising day dispels the night.

Christ willed what he himself had done
Should be renewed while time should run,
In memory of his parting hour:
Thus, tutored in his school divine,
We consecrate the bread and wine;
And lo – a Host of saving power.

This faith to Christian men is given –
Bread is made flesh by words from heaven:
Into his blood the wine is turned:
What though it baffles nature's powers
Of sense and sight? This faith of ours
Proves more than nature e'er discerned.

Concealed beneath the two-fold sign,
Meet symbols of the gifts divine,
There lie the mysteries adored:
The living body is our food;
Our drink the ever-precious blood;
In each, one undivided Lord.

Not he that eateth it divides
The sacred food, which whole abides
Unbroken still, nor knows decay;
Be one, or be a thousand fed,
They eat alike that living bread
Which, still received, ne'er wastes away.

The good, the guilty share therein,
With sure increase of grace or sin,
The ghostly life, or ghostly death:
Death to the guilty; to the good
Immortal life. See how one food
Man's joy or woe accomplisheth.

We break the Sacrament; but bold
And firm thy faith shall keep its hold;
Deem not the whole doth more enfold
Than in the fractured part resides:
Deem not that Christ doth broken lie;
'Tis but the sign that meets the eye;
The hidden deep reality
In all its fullness still abides.

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;

O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

News from the Bishop's Office - 8 June 2023

I am happy to inform you of my decision around the appointment of two Vicars General for the Diocese, these are Fr Greg Barker who will also remain Parish Priest of Boolaroo-Warners Bay Parish and Booragul Parish, and Fr Matthew Muller who will also remain as Chancellor. The Code of Canon Law describes the role of the Vicar General as one "who is provided with ordinary power according to the norm of the following canons and who is to assist the bishop in the governance of the whole diocese" (Canons 475-481). Fr Greg's experience as Diocesan Administrator and Fr Matthew's experience as Chancellor means they are both well-placed to assist me in this most important capacity.

Last month elections were held to form the Council of Priests. This Council "is to be like a senate of the bishop and which assists the bishop in the governance of the diocese according to the norm of law to promote as much as possible the pastoral good of the portion of the People of God entrusted to him" (Canon 495). The Council is made up of 5 elected members; 2 bishop's appointments; and 2 ex-officio members.

Those priests elected are:

- Fr Kevin Corrigan
- Fr Joseph Figurado
- Fr Graham Fullick
- Fr John Lovell
- Fr Gerard Mackie

My appointments are:

- Fr Thomas Chirackal
- Fr Camillus Nwahia

Ex-officio members are:

- Fr Greg Barker, Vicar General
- Fr Matthew Muller, Vicar General and Chancellor

The College of Consultors and Trustees remains the same - members can be found on our Diocese website www.mn.catholic.org.au The College of Consultors (canon 502) is a stable body of priests whose role is to advise the bishop in financial and other matters decided by the bishop. Bishop Michael and the diocesan consultors collectively are the body corporate "Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle" by virtue of the NSW Trust property act.

I am most grateful to all these priests for accepting the various appointments and look forward to our close collaboration for the sake of the mission of the Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Yours in Christ

Most Reverend Bishop Michael
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle