



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

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

18 June 2023

First Reading Ex 19:2-6
A reading from the book of Exodus.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3

**(R.) We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.**

Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.
(R.)

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 5:6-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 9:36 – 10:8
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

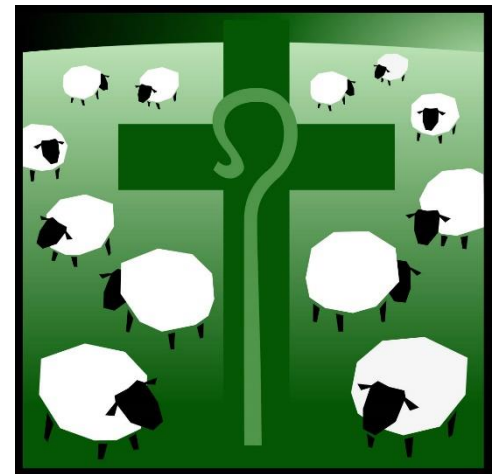
He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

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

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**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Guts in a Knot

When Jesus saw the crowds 'he felt sorry for them'. The Greek original actually says 'his guts were in a knot'. When Jesus saw a desperate need he found it stomach-churning stuff.

Our bodies often tell us what we should pray for. Another good signal is tears, not only of sadness but also of joy.

Body-felt impulse and prayer go together, whether celebrating good things or confronting bad things. This is what our Lord wants and, where possible, leading to effective action... labourers in the harvest.

So, when our body gives us the signal – stomach in a knot, or tremendous joy flooding into our lives – follow the body's signals. Pray for the person or the situation concerned. You can be sure that your prayer will be authentic.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13
2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-15
Gospel: Mt 10:26-33

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: *Carmel Dunn, James Garner and Jack Gresham. Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Darcy Bulman, Zachary Bray, Tori Cowburn, Angus Craig, Nadene McBride, Kyah McBride, Rebecca Mullen, Andrew Scott, Lynan Scott and Kane Symons. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

Baptisms: *Hamish Lundie and Enzo Merrick (Branxton). Called by name to be a child of God.*

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 | <i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i> | Station St, Branxton 2335 | Contact: Parish Office |
| Greta | <i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i> | 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 25 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 | | G McMillan |
| Commentator | | M Ingold | G Cattermole | | H Rapp | |
| Readers | P Conroy C Szumilas | L Gorczyca | H Ruigrok S Bates | R James D Cantrall | H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig | |
| Prayers | | M Ingold | E Thomas | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | A Skardon | Welcomers are required each week. |
| Offertory | M Thomas D Thomas | G Wilton | 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 | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 19 June <i>St Romuald</i> | 20 June | 21 June <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i> | 22 June <i>Sts John Fisher and Thomas More</i> | 23 June <i>St Paulinus of Nola</i> | 24 June <i>THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</i> | 25 June <i>12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</i> |
| OFFICE CLOSED | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE OPEN | | |
| <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>6.00pm</u> COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass & Adoration <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>11.00am</u> Mass <i>Elizabeth Gates</i> | <u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> |
| | <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i> | | <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | | <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.

Community Memorial Liturgy

Bishop Michael Kennedy will lead a Community Memorial Liturgy in St Patrick's Church, Singleton on **Thursday 22 June 2023 at 6.00pm**. All are welcome to attend and pay respect to those who lost their lives and to their families.

St Patrick's Church Open

St Patrick's Church is always open during daylight hours for anyone to come in for private prayer and reflection.

Thank You for Your Support

Fr Thomas and the Singleton and Branxton Parish Office have received many calls of support and welfare from our diocesan community.

Thank you to Bishop Michael, Fr Greg Barker and the diocese offices for their assistance and care during this most difficult and unprecedented time and for representing our catholic community at the community gathering on Thursday evening.

Thank you to the many priests who have contacted the office and Fr Thomas to offer to come to Singleton to assist pastorally and those who couldn't get here they have offered their prayers for all involved and the wider Singleton community.

Thank you also to those in our parish who have played their part in helping those who are hurting.

2022-23 Planned Giving Tax Receipts

If you give money to the parish through the planned giving envelopes or direct debit and you would like a Receipt for taxation purposes, please let the parish office know by **Friday 23 June 2023**. Tax receipts CANNOT be issued after 30 June.

Each giver will have an envelope at the church with a form to complete. Please check all details and return in the collection plate.

Eucharistic Adoration - St Patrick's Church

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

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.

Welcome Anton Perera!

Anton Perera will be staying in the parish over the next couple weeks as part of his pastoral placement. Anton completed his studies in a seminary in Sri Lanka and is now studying his Masters in Theology through the Diocese of Broken Bay. Please make him welcome during his stay with us.

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**.

Refugee Week Prayer Service

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office will host an online prayer service to commemorate Refugee Week at **7pm on Tuesday 20 June**. To register, visit [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMof-CpqjwuGdfRunDx_8r-xaibfgFddptN#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMof-CpqjwuGdfRunDx_8r-xaibfgFddptN#/registration)

Church/Faith Crawl

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to visit four Newcastle faith communities on **Wednesday 19 July from 9:30am to 3:45pm**. Lunch will be provided by the Salvation Army (\$10 per person). Registration is now open and closes Friday 14 July.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/church-crawl-tickets-648540932387.

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.

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.

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.

We offer you our prayers, sympathies, and support...

The recent news of the Hunter Valley bus accident has been shocking and deeply saddening for our whole community.

Bishop Michael Kennedy said, *"We offer our prayers, sympathies and support to the family, friends and many people impacted."*

"The devastation in our community will be felt far and wide. I was deeply saddened to hear of the terrible loss of life and injury. I offer my condolences and prayers to all those involved."

The Diocese has been working with our schools and services in Singleton and across the region to ensure we provide support needed to those in the communities.

We will continue to provide this support as we come to terms with what has happened, and our parishes are providing support to anyone looking for comfort at this time with special prayers and services provided.

Services and support available:

- Fr Greg Barker, Vicar General has travelled to Singleton to provide additional pastoral support to the Singleton community, to assist Fr Thomas Chirackal.
- **A Community Memorial Liturgy will be led by Bishop Michael Kennedy on Thursday 22 June at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.**
- A prayer station has been established in *St Patrick's Catholic Church* and all members of the community affected by the bus tragedy are welcome to gather and join in prayer.
- A memorial liturgy will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton early next week.
- A prayer station has been established at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton and all people are welcome to light a memorial candle and gather in reflection.
- Our clergy and chaplains are available to offer pastoral care to all in our community.
- Students, staff and their families at St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton are able to access counselling through our school-based ***Beyond the Gates*** program as well as our additional external provider, ***The Rosewood Centre***.
- Staff and families impacted who attend St Nicholas Early Education Singleton are also able to access counselling and supports.
- The NSW Government has endorsed Rotary Australia's fundraiser to provide benevolent relief and support to survivors, victims, and their immediate families. If you wish to donate please visit www.rawcs.org.au or www.nsw.gov.au

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

"Lord, we know that You are the God who comforts us. I pray that You provide a time of comfort and rest for those whose hearts are hurting right now. Hold them in Your embrace, Father. Wrap them in Your love and remind them that though they may have lost someone dear, they are not alone, for You are with them. Bring them the hope of Your unfailing love and turn their sadness into gladness. Soothe their heartache as they lean on You for comfort and guidance. I pray that their grief heals smoothly, for You will be with them every step of the way. May they hold on to You for strength, hope, and sustenance. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen"

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN
Please light a candle
and say a prayer for the
victims, their families
and their friends

