

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

ATSI Sunday

2 July 2023

First Reading 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16
A reading from the second book of the Kings.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 6:3-4, 8-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.
Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 10:37-42
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Christianity not a Cult

In the early Church, Christianity ripped families apart. Good Jewish families would have been appalled to see their sons and daughters go off to follow a crucified blasphemer. Good reason to keep apart in the synagogue, avoiding damnable pollution. This sectarianism contrasted with the Christians who fearlessly went out into the world.

St John Paul II personified what it is to be Catholic. But, he pressed a prayer into a crack in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and as an old man shuffled across the floor of a Mosque in Syria.

Of course, there was no compromise of belief and faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, denied by both Jews and Muslims. But his actions were not those of one with the siege mentality of the member of a cult. Rather, he was able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to take these steps recognising what was good amongst the adherents of those faiths.

We could pause for a moment to implore the Holy Spirit to break us out from any constricting cult-like tendencies so that we can go out into the world powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Zec 9:9-10 2nd Reading: Rom 8:9, 11-13 Gospel: Mt 11:25-30
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>

Prayer Requests

Sick: *Phuong Ho, Austin Hoffman, 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: *Kevin Nowlan, James Johnston, Neville Garner, Marie Garner, Maurice Garner, Cheryl Nesbitt, Ted Meyn, Janina Gorczyca. Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Ayo Sunday Okovido (Father of Solomon). Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

Baptisms: *Iyla Ernst and Hayden Perry (Branxton), Rocco Edwards and William Kirton (Singleton). 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: 02 5507 4048
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 9 JULY 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		K Ingold	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	C Harvey C Szumilas	D Lerch	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	C Miller A Humphreys	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 July <i>ST THOMAS, APOSTLE</i>	4 July <i>St Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	5 July <i>St Anthony Zaccaria</i>	6 July <i>St Maria Goretti</i>	7 July <i>Blessed Peter To Rot</i>	8 July	9 July 14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass and Adoration <i>St Patrick's Singleton</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.

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.

Support Services for 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

Lifeline Hunter have a range of services available for those who are in need. Access their interactive Tool Kit can be access online at <https://toolkit.lifeline.org.au/> You can also visit the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre without a referral to access Lifeline services.

Lifeline Hunter will also be holding some one-day workshops locally later in the year. The Accidental Counsellor Foundations course gives basic skills for dealing with people who need support or are in crisis. More information can be found at <https://lifelinedirect.org.au/hunter> These are fully funded courses for the Singleton community.

Office Hours

The Parish Office will CLOSED 7 July, OPEN 10-14 July, CLOSED 17-21 July. Bulletins for 16 July and 23 July will be printed on 14 July. Please have any items for these bulletins to the office by Thursday 13 July.

2023-24 Planned Giving Envelopes

Envelopes have been issued for those who have requested them. If you wish to give to the 2nd Collection via the planned giving envelopes or direct debit please contact the Parish Office.

Senior Singles Lunch

The next Senior Singles lunch will be held on Tuesday 11 July 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 12 July 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.

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.

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.

Reimagining Our Community – Singleton and Branxton

Come along to help grow, thrive, and transform our community! Saturday 22 July 2023, 10am in St Patrick's Church



Reimagining Our Community
for mission
and evangelisation

DO YOU DESIRE TO SEE OUR COMMUNITY GROW AND THRIVE?
DO YOU LONG TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED?
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FACILITATED WORKSHOP IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
TO EXPLORE NEW POSSIBILITIES TOGETHER
TO REGISTER EMAIL: [SINGLETON.BRANXTON@MN.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au)
MORNING TEA WILL BE PROVIDED.

Saturday | 22 July 2023 | 10am
www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au

Workshops and Cathedral Lecture – Richard Lennan

We are excited that Father Richard Lennan will be visiting his hometown this August. He is offering several workshops and presentations. Join Richard in 'tilling' the Church for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace. Tues 15: Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities- Maitland Gaol- 9.30am-3.30pm. Wed 16: Cathedral Lecture open to all diocesan community – Shaping the Church's Future: The Grace of Creative Faithfulness- Sacred Heart Cathedral. 6.00pm-7.00pm. Fri 18: Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities Forster Tuncurry Parish Hall. 9.30 am to 3.30pm. To register go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events/



PRAYER

Creator, You beautifully, wonderfully make us.
May we go your way of love

Christ, You lead us to reconciliation.
May we go your way of justice.

Spirit, You move us on the journey.
May we go your way of breath.

Amen

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE REFERENDUM

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

As Christians, we are invited into a new life in Christ. *The Uluru Statement from the Heart* similarly invites us to live and journey together in hope. This short reflection considers how Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs) might help us along the way. Following Jesus's example, at this time in our shared history, as at other key moments in our reconciliation journey, our first step is to recognise one another's human dignity.

Human Dignity is a God-given "quality of being human, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability". It affirms the Christian "belief that every person is made in the image of God and is intrinsically valuable and worthy of respect, simply because they are human".

Learning about the Country, Culture, Language and everyday realities of First Nations Peoples where you live is one step towards seeing, affirming and celebrating the human dignity of First Australians. Considering all points of view ahead of the referendum "to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice" is another.

Subsidiarity builds on the idea that people and groups have the right to participate in decisions affecting them. More than just promoting **participation**, it means that when people and groups can't meet their own needs, other parts of society (e.g., the Government) act according to their duty to assist with resources and support. *The proposal to amend the Constitution to recognise Australia's First Nations Peoples, including through the Voice, is an example of this CST in action. As the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) explains, "Your support of our voices on important issues helps to make Subsidiarity a reality."*

The Common Good underpins our life together. It helps ensure people realise their full potential as individuals and communities. More than just sharing what we have, the common good is "what happens when individual rights to personal possessions and community resources are balanced with our collective responsibility to meet the needs of others."

When we consider the common good, we accept our collective responsibility to 'close the gap', that is, to see and meet the needs of First Nations Peoples who experience inequity and other injustices, including homelessness, poverty and incarceration, at disproportionate rates.

Solidarity is relational. By definition it's "a firm and persevering commitment to the common good, which reminds us that everything is related... It's a way of saying, 'I'm here with you.'" When we practice solidarity, we act in ways that accompany others in their own life experiences. Learning about First Nations Peoples' challenges and joining them as they campaign for justice is one example.

Solidarity also reminds us that we are much stronger and better when we are together. It compels us to lift one another up. The Referendum on the Voice is an opportunity to listen to First Australians and come together as one, united by mutual respect and compassion.

Care for Our Common Home helps us preserve creation for future generations. "A way of appreciating the earth, not as a commodity but as a sacred space, a gift from God". Care for our common home is "an approach to looking after God's creation by 'tilling' (cultivating or working) and 'keeping' (caring, protecting and preserving) it".

Learning from First Nations Peoples' wisdom is important to reconciliation. If enshrined in Law, the Voice to Parliament could be a mechanism for First Australians to share their knowledge on caring for the environment in more strategic and coordinated ways that benefit all, for example, by offering advice on such things as sustainable land management methods.

Preferential Option for the Poor is demonstrated by the "act of prioritising the needs of the poor over the desires of the rich, the rights of workers over profits and the preservation of the environment over its exploitation".

Amending the Constitution is a way of responding in love to the unjust circumstances in which First Nations Australians live. Fr Frank Brennan challenges Catholics to, "Know your history; know the Aboriginal history." He emphasises that First Australians belong in our Country's collective story and in the law that guides our common life. This change needs to be a matter of priority.

To view the Uluru Statement go to <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

For more information on the Voice to Parliament Referendum go to <https://voice.gov.au/>