



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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

SEA SUNDAY

9 July 2023

First Reading

Zec 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of
Jerusalem!

See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.

He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my
king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 8:9, 11-13

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.*

Your interests are not in the unspiritual,
but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God
has made his home in you. In fact, unless
you possessed the Spirit of Christ you
would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of
him who raised Jesus from the dead is
living in you, then he who raised Jesus from
the dead will give life to your own mortal
bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity
for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to
live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that
way, you are doomed to die; but if by the
Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of
the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;**

**you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 11:25-30

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord
of heaven and of earth, for hiding these
things from the learned and the clever and
revealing them to mere children. Yes,
Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.
Everything has been entrusted to me by my
Father; and no one knows the Son except
the Father, just as no one knows the Father
except the Son and those to whom the Son
chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened, and I will give you rest.
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you
will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is
easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Not an Outsider by an Insider

In the Jewish story of the creation of Adam,
the author has God fashion a figure of a
human being out of damp earth, and then
breathes into the nostrils of this clay figure.
It becomes 'Adam'. In Hebrew, the word for
breath, wind or Spirit is the same, so this
story tells us that we become human when
the Holy Spirit is breathed into our very
being.

St Paul tells the early converts in Rome,
those recently baptised, and therefore tells
us who are baptised: 'The Spirit of God has
made his home in you.'

Since your baptism, the Holy Spirit, the
Breath of God, dwells in you in a special
way. Baptism re-creates us, sharing in the
life of the true Adam.

We could pause for a moment to pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful and enkindle *in* them the fire of
your love.

© 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:
Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Is 55:10-11
2nd Reading: Rom 8:18-23
Gospel: Mt 13:1-23

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, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, Jen Phillips, Allan Thomas, and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

Anniversaries: *Flo Crouch, Leo Ernst, Herb Banister, Clara Thomas. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

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	Promoters of Safeguarding Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
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: 02 5507 4048
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 16 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		J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole			
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	<i>Welcomers are required each week.</i>
Offertory	J & S Stafa	C Miller A Humphreys	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	
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
10 July	11 July <i>St Benedict</i>	12 July	13 July <i>St Henry</i>	14 July <i>St Camillus de Lellis</i>	15 July <i>St Bonaventure</i>	16 July 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
OFFICE OPEN	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>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <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> SCAE <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.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

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.

Office Hours

The Parish Office will be 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. Tax receipts will be issued once the Diocese has completed their reconciliations for the financial year.

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.

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

To register use the sheet at the back of the church or contact the parish office via email or phone.



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
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/

Spotlight on Safeguarding – July 2023



PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

LIFELINE 13 11 14	BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 4636
1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732	HEADSPACE 1800 650 890
MINDSPOT 1800 61 44 34	KIDS HELPLINE 1800 55 1800
NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE 1800 007 007	NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE 1800 020 080

happy 30th birthday!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST BRIGID'S CARITAS GROUP 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE BRANXTON PARISH

This group was formed in 1993 under the auspices of the late Fr James Saunders and the late Sister Kathleen Mernagh. The aim of the group was to bring the community together through recreation facilities and activities designed to cover all members of our parish. Their vision was the establishment of aged care facilities in Branxton and if that was not possible, they would donate to aged care facilities. This was achieved with the introduction of housie mornings, parish luncheons, concerts, cake stalls, trivia nights, debutant balls and an Anointing Mass which was held regularly followed by morning tea.

Much has happened in those 30 years. Many members have gone to their eternal reward, may they rest in peace, and as the activities fell away some members stepped aside but continued their support.

The current members meet for lunch each month, inviting parishioners to join them and continue to plan events for the year. The annual pilgrimage to MacKillop Place has been a huge highlight on the calendar since 1998. Each occasion has been richly rewarding spiritually and socially.

Over the years they have provided crim safe windows to the McAuley Hall, built the columbarium in the cemetery, donated religious effects to Rosary Park School and purchased soft furnishings for St Brigid's Church. Most recently they donated to the Hope Tree Group giving a \$4000 donation towards equipment for the Franciscan Sisters Health Centre in Tanzania. They have also donated to the Mercy Aged Care Services and Elizabeth Gates Nursing Home in Singleton and revamped gardens around St Brigid's Church.

They have great devotion to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and as they ask her to intercede for them, they remember **'We are but travellers here' St Mary MacKillop 1867.**

Members and guests celebrated the anniversary on Friday 23rd of June 2023 at Miller Park Hotel. It was a great occasion and enjoyed by all who attended. Keep an eye out for the date of their next monthly lunch!



SEA SUNDAY
9 July 2023



Known to seafarers around the world as Stella Maris, the Apostleship of the Sea ministry is now called Stella Maris globally. The organisation cares for the spiritual, social and material welfare of all seafarers regardless of colour, race or creed.

Sea Sunday is the day set by many Christian Churches to remember, celebrate, pray for seafarers and their families and give thanks for their lives and work. It is officially held on the second Sunday in July. Seafarers work tirelessly in the high seas throughout the year bringing us more than ninety percent of the goods we need. To donate, go to <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>

O God, in Your kindness, lead all seafarers through the perils of the ocean and bring them back in safety to their homes and friends. Guide them through the many temptations their way of life occasions. Inspire them to make fruitful use of the centres and chapels Your Church has established for them, and grant that they may learn to love and follow You with strength and loyalty through Christ Our Lord. Amen