



**First Reading** **Is 55:10-11**  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'  
The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8**

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. (R.)

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. (R.)

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

**Second Reading** **Rom 8:18-23**  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed,

like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;**  
**all who come to him will live for ever.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mt 13:1-23**  
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see,  
your ears because they hear! I tell you

solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

### Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

*'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'*

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
**1st Reading:** Wis 12:13, 16-19  
**2nd Reading:** Rom 8:26-27  
**Gospel:** Mt 13:24-43

**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:** Ron Brady, 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:** Ellen Holz, Silvino Diputado. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Lew Fenton. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Riley and Koah McAndrew (Branxton). Isla Ernst and Lochlin Unicomb (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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	<b>Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299</b>
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	<b>Contact: 0437 374 929</b>
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
<b>Greta</b>	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	<b>Contact: 0428 485 025</b>

## Schools in our Parishes

<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Singleton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Branxton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 23 JULY 2023

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 5pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		<b>OFFICE CLOSED NO COUNTING</b>
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher S Trunk	A Humphreys	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	A Skardon	<b>Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas D Thomas	Joan N Norma E	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>17 July</b>	<b>18 July</b>	<b>19 July</b>	<b>20 July</b> <i>St Apollinaris</i>	<b>21 July</b> <i>St Lawrence of Brindisi</i>	<b>22 July</b> <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	<b>23 July</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<b>8.00am Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.20am LOTW</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.00am Novena</b> <b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>  <b>5.00pm SCAE</b> <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<b>7.00am Mass</b> <b>10.00am SCAE</b> <b>5.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<b>9.20am Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<b>6.00pm Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<b>7.35am Rosary</b> <b>8.15am Mass</b> <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, please contact the parish office for a Welcome Pack to be sent to you, complete and return the Member forms.

## **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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## **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](http://www.rawcs.org.au) or [www.nsw.gov.au](http://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 CLOSED 17-21 July. For any urgent matters, please contact Fr Thomas on 0470 246 021.

## **St Patrick's Church Adoration**

Adoration of the blessed Eucharist will be held each Friday in July after Mass in St Patrick's Church, Singleton. All are invited to join.

## **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. Pilgrims will have a museum tour and a stop at North Ryde RSL. Fr Thomas will say Mass in the chapel. Bus will leave Sydney at 3pm.

## **St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch**

The next St Brigid's Caritas Group Lunch will be held on Friday 11 August 2023 at 12.00pm in Miller Park Hotel. Members and non-members are most welcome. For more information phone Mercia Thomas 0447 819 889.

## **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 2023 from 9.30am-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](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/church-crawl-tickets-648540932387)

## **Reimagining Our Community – Singleton and Branxton**

Come along **NEXT WEEKEND** 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.

This weekend members of the Pastoral Ministries Team from the Diocese will be speaking at each Mass about what to expect at the workshop. We thank them for their time to facilitate this important exploration of new possibilities.



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](http://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/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events/)



The third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated on 23 July 2023, will have the theme, "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1: 50). This verse reminds us that God's mercy is manifested in history through the testimonies of those who have experienced it and passed it on to their children and grandchildren.

We invite all Grandparents and Elderly parishioners to attend Mass next weekend to celebrate this special occasion.

Maybe you could contact an older friend to give them a lift to Mass?



# Plenary Council Decrees

At Pentecost 2023, the Bishops Conference published *Carrying Forward the Plenary Council: As we continue the journey together*. The document invites Catholic parishes, schools and other communities to pray about, reflect upon and review what they are already doing, or could be doing, in relation to acting on the commitments the Council members made in the decrees.

As Plenary Council vice-president Bishop Shane Mackinlay wrote, *Carrying Forward the Plenary Council* “can help us continue with the synodal journey, walking together and encountering the face of Christ in each person”.

During the second general assembly, more than 35 motions were put to a consultative and a deliberative vote. Those motions that received a qualified majority in the deliberative vote – two-thirds of voters eligible and present – were passed by the Plenary Council. They were confirmed as the decrees of the Plenary Council.

After the November 2022 meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the decrees will be sent to the Apostolic See. In accordance with canon 446 of the Code of Canon Law, decrees are not to be promulgated until they have been reviewed by the Apostolic See. They will be promulgated in the *Australasian Catholic Record* and the website of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in accordance with its usual practice. The decrees will oblige six months after promulgation.

The decrees will be published in the bulletin over the next few months. To read the full document relating to each decree you can go to <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

## **RECONCILIATION: HEALING WOUNDS, RECEIVING GIFTS**

### **The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia decrees:**

#### **Article 1**

That each Catholic school, parish, diocese, eparchy or organisation will respond to the recommendations contained in the NATSICC position paper, “Embracing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Life of the Catholic Church” in the following ways:

- a. acknowledges in a prominent and appropriate manner the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which their buildings stand;
- b. includes the online Cultural Competency in a Catholic Context course developed by NATSICC and approved by the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the orientation and/or ongoing formation of staff and volunteers to enable more effective and appropriate ministry;
- c. ensures that any retreats and other formation activities offered are culturally appropriate;
- d. works actively to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on its committees, boards and decision-making bodies.

#### **Article 2**

That the advisory councils of the Bishops’ Commission for Liturgy, in partnership with NATSICC, will develop options for the liturgically and culturally appropriate use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander symbols and rituals in Catholic liturgical contexts, with respect for the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The Eastern Catholic Churches in Australia will interpret the decrees of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia in accordance with the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches and the traditions of each church sui iuris.

In accordance with canon 446 of the Code of Canon Law, this decree is not to be promulgated until it has been reviewed by the Apostolic See. It will be promulgated in *Australasian Catholic Record* and the website of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in accordance with its usual practice. The decrees will oblige six months after promulgation.