

**First Reading**                    **1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12**  
*A reading from the first book of the Kings.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97**

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to  
me  
than silver and gold. **(R.)**

Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**

That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. **(R.)**

Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**                    **Rom 8:28-30**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52**  
*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.  
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.  
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.  
'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

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



**REFLECTION  
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

*The Language of Heaven*

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> The Transfiguration of the Lord <b>1st Reading:</b> Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 <b>2nd Reading:</b> 2 Pt 1:16-19 <b>Gospel:</b> Mt 17:1-9
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>

## Prayer Requests

**Sick:** James Bailey, Ron Brady, Phuong Ho, Austin Hoffman, Harry Lennard, 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:** Mollie Bogan, Lester Bogan, Janet Brumby, Bill Burton, Barry Davy, Frank Dunn, Gladys Garner and Shirley McAleer. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Des March, Warren Barry and Barry Ernst. **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

<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>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	<b>Contact: 0428 485 025</b>
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<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 6 AUGUST 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>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	C Harvey C Szumilas	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	C Langford	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	J & S Stafa	Colleen A Lynn H	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>31 July</b> <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	<b>1 August</b> <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	<b>2 August</b> <i>St Eusebius of Vercelli St Peter Julian Eymard</i>	<b>3 August</b> <i>St Dominic</i>	<b>4 August</b> <i>St John Vianney</i>	<b>5 August</b> <i>The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major</i>	<b>6 August</b> <b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</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 Mass</b> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>9.00am Novena</b> <b>9.20am Mass</b> <b>1st Anniversary</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<b>7.00am SCAE</b> <b>10.00am Mass</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, 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## **Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be **OPEN** Monday-Thursday, and **CLOSED** Friday 4 August.

## **St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass**

St Patrick's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 5 August 2023 at 9.20am. All are invited to pray for anyone who's anniversary occurs at this time. We will particularly remember:

- ✠ George Alexander
- ✠ Bevan Spinks
- ✠ Sue Bartlett
- ✠ Patricia Bell

## **St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting**

The next meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 9 August 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**

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.

## **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards**

Over the next few months, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is being audited against its compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. Director of Safeguarding, Sean Tynan, has made an electronic presentation, designed to let parishioners know about the audit process and, for those parishes who will be audited, what they can expect. Although the parishes of Singleton and Branxton are not being audited in this round, this information may be of interest of you to explain why we need to continue to comply with these standards. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QmrwxXhx0U> to watch the presentation.

## **Hiroshima Day Commemoration**

A commemoration of Hiroshima Day will be held at Choral Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 6 August 2023 at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. The guest preachers on this special occasion will be the Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson and Rev'd Dr Ray Williamson. People of all faiths are warmly invited to share in this annual service of commemoration as we remember those who have suffered as a result of war and join together in prayers for peace in the world. Contacts: George Garnsey 4934 2658 or Doug Hewitt 0431 935 097.

## **Parish Employee and Volunteer Safeguarding Training**

Parish volunteers who are in role where they are in contact with children or vulnerable persons, are required to attend **Course 2: Safeguarding in Parishes**. This training forms part of the **Diocese's mandatory training regime** and is specifically designed to support parish workers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

This training will be held in the Singleton Parish Office on Saturday 30 September 2023. Anyone who is required to attend this training will be sent an invitation to register. The training is open to all parishioners to attend. Please ensure you have registered online as a volunteer of the parish to ensure we continue to meet the standards for Safeguarding in our parishes. If you are unable to register online, please contact the parish office and we can assist you with registering.

## **Seasons for Growth Adult Program**

The Seasons for Growth Adult Program is for anyone who is living with the effects of change and loss. Many factors can cause change such as the loss of someone or something you love, family separation and divorce, moving to a new place, impact of illness, migration, and family or work-life changes. If you, or someone you know, are dealing with significant life changes, you are invited to attend the Adult Seminar on Saturday 2 September, 9am-12pm in the Toohey Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West. RSVP 27 August. Registration <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-for-growth-tickets-671239343947> or ring 4979 1334.

## **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/)

## **Billing Webinar for Natural Fertility Awareness Week**

This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "*Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective*" will be held on Monday 21 August 2023 at 7.30pm. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>





**PlenaryCouncil**  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

# 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/>

## **DEECREE 2: CHOOSING REPETENCE – SEEKING HEALING**

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

#### **Article 1**

That to express more fully the aims of the annual “Safeguarding Sunday”, in consultation with those who have been harmed by abuse:

- a. a new name will be adopted for “Safeguarding Sunday”, and
- b. the Bishops Commission for Liturgy will develop appropriate rituals and liturgical resources to be offered to parishes for use on the day.

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.

## *Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place*

*A spiritually rewarding day was had by all on Friday 21 July at MacKillop Place.*

*Thank you to all who participated in any way.*

