



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

The Transfiguration of the Lord

6 August 2023

First Reading **Dn 7:9-10, 13-14**
A reading from the book of Daniel.

As I watched:
Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood
before him.

A court was held and the books were
opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and
languages became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.

**(R.) The Lord is king, the most high over
all the earth.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. **(R.)**

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. **(R.)**

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits. **(R.)**

Second Reading **2 Pt 1:16-19**
A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

It was not any cleverly invented myths that
we were repeating when we brought you
the knowledge of the power and the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had
seen his majesty for ourselves. He was
honoured and glorified by God the Father,
when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him
and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he

enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves,
spoken from heaven, when we were with
him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said
in prophecies; and you will be right to
depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp
for lighting a way through the dark until the
dawn comes and the morning star rises in
your minds.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 17:5**

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is my Son, my beloved,
in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 17:1-9**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and
his brother John and led them up a high
mountain where they could be alone. There
in their presence he was transfigured: his
face shone like the sun and his clothes
became as white as the light. Suddenly
Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they
were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to
Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us
to be here; if you wish, I will make three
tents here, one for you, one for Moses and
one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when
suddenly a bright cloud covered them with
shadow, and from the cloud there came a
voice which said, 'This is my Son, the
Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to
him.' When they heard this, the disciples
fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But
Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand
up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when
they raised their eyes they saw no one but
only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain
Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one
about the vision until the Son of Man has
risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

In the midst of Ordinary Time, we are
invited to behold the transfiguration of
Christ. By some horrible coincidence, we
recall Christ's brilliance on the day that the
world marks another cosmic event, its birth
into the atomic age at Hiroshima. The
paradox of these events should not be lost
on us. The white light that shone from
Christ was a mere suggestion of the divine
splendour that is beyond human
comprehension; the flashing light from the
atomic explosion was an omen of the
destructive force that is within human
grasp. It is imperative that the horror of the
latter be brought under the control of the
glory of the former.

The transfiguration was a moment in time
when Jesus' divine glory broke through his
humanity and shone with a brilliance that
was blinding. We sing of this glory time and
again in the psalms. Yet when it really
appears we can hardly believe it ourselves.
The readings outline three different
moments when this glory was revealed.
The first was reported by the visionary in
the book of Daniel. The second moment
was the scene of the transfiguration. The
third is hidden in the resurrection
testimony of the author of the Letter of
Peter.

We are the ones who today possess the
prophetic message; we are the present day
eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty. We too
have moments when we might behold his
glory and hear the voice proclaiming his
identity, but we need eyes of faith and ears
that are open.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: 1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13 2nd Reading: Rom 9:1-5 Gospel: Mt 14:22-33
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: Ron Brady, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Harry Lennard, 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: Wolfgang Alsleben, Ronald Briley, Terry Clarke, Cheryl Klasen and Cori McAleer. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Hunter Hobden and Hazel Smolders (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	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	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Madison Keevill	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 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		E Janssen	
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilas	D Lerch	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Nightingale N Ernst		VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7 August <i>St Sixtus II & comps</i> <i>St Cajetan</i>	8 August <i>ST MARY OF THE CROSS (MARY MACKILLOP), VIRGIN</i>	9 August <i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	10 August <i>ST LAWRENCE</i>	11 August <i>St Clare</i>	12 August <i>St Jane Frances de Chantal</i>	13 August 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW <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.

Options for Receiving Communion – Gluten Intolerance

If you suffer from gluten intolerance or coeliac disease please discuss your needs with the priest before Mass and ask what options are available to you.

You may be asked to come forward first to Communion and indicate to the celebrant that you require a low-gluten host which we have available at each church. Some low-gluten hosts are so low in gluten that some coeliacs are not affected when these hosts are received as Holy Communion.

If, however, your condition is so severe that it precludes even low-gluten hosts, then arrangements can be made for you to receive Holy Communion from the chalice. This practice is widespread both here in Australia and overseas. When you receive under the form of the consecrated bread alone or the consecrated wine alone, you receive the “whole Christ” [see General Instruction of the Roman Missal (2012) no. 282; Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992) no. 1390.].

Parish Volunteer Safeguarding Training

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote and uphold the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of each child and every vulnerable person with whom we interact in the name of our church.

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 if they wish. 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.

Planned Giving Envelopes

There are still sets of giving envelopes available if you wish to use them for 2023-24. By giving via the planned giving scheme using envelopes or having your donation direct debited from your account, you may be eligible to receive a tax receipt at the end of the financial year. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

National Vocations Awareness Week

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week in August, coinciding with the feast of the country’s first saint: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. In 2023, National Vocations Awareness Week is being celebrated from **6-13 August**. Every member of the Church is *called to holiness (Lumen Gentium, Ch V)*. This means we are called to love: to love God and to love each other. The particular way that you live out that call to holiness is your *vocation*.

If you would like to learn more about vocations, please visit <https://vocationcentre.org.au/>

Senior Singles Monthly Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet on **Tuesday 8 August 2023 at 12.00pm** in the restaurant of the Albion Hotel. New members are welcome to join them for a chat over a meal.

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.

Mission and Evangelisation Team News

The Mission and Evangelisation Team in Singleton Parish have provided colouring-in sheets and worksheets for children attending Mass in St Patrick’s Church. The worksheets will be topical for the Sunday.

The sheets are in a folder at the back of the church and children are invited to take some sheets and pencils to use during mass. There are also copies of a Children’s Missal available for children to follow along during Mass.

Novena to Our Lady of the Assumption

Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven, I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son, and that someday my body shall rejoin my soul in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, over which I tread as a pilgrim, I look to you for help. When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you.





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 3: CALLED BY CHRIST – SENT FORTH AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia decrees:

Article 1

That those responsible for Catholic schooling and early childhood education, in consultation with representatives of Catholic parents' groups and parish-based organisation, led by the National Catholic Education Commission and drawing upon the document, *A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education (2017)*, establish a national forum, which will seek to:

- a. identify and respond to the needs of the diverse and distinct circumstances of Catholic schools in Australia;
- b. build partnerships which enhance the vision of Catholic education as an instrument of evangelisation and an essential dimension of the contemporary mission of the Church;
- c. offer a process for critical reflection and discernment of the vocation of Catholic education today;
- d. support formation opportunities for catechesis, faith formation, leadership development and religious education pedagogy; and
- e. to assist parish engagement with schools and young people.

Article 2

That the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service establish a triennial National Forum of Catholic social service, health and aged care, disability, prison ministry, refugee and asylum-seeker, and justice, ecology and peace organisations and representatives of those served by these organisations; and that the purpose of this forum include:

- a. providing opportunities for dialogue that will contribute to the ability of the Church in Australia to attend to “examining the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel”;
- b. identifying and exploring priorities for evangelisation through outreach, service provision, advocacy and formation;
- c. addressing gaps;
- d. seeking opportunities for collaboration; and
- e. informing the development of local social teachings to be issued by the Australian Bishops.

Article 3

- a. That each diocese and eparchy identify ways of promoting ecumenical and interfaith relationships (e.g., an Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer) that are practical and appropriate for the diocese or eparchy.
- b. That the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue – in collaboration with Catholic tertiary institutions and theological associations – provide guidance, advice and resources to dioceses and eparchies for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and relationships, and formation for those responsible for ecumenical and interreligious relations.

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.