

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

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**13 August 2023**

**First Reading**      **1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13**  
*A reading from the first book of Kings*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8**

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**      **Rom 9:1-5**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Ps 129:5**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**I hope in the Lord,**  
**I trust in his word.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      **Mt 14:22-23**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



**REFLECTION  
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

**Keep Rowing!**

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Many of our contemporaries are openly hostile or contentedly indifferent.

In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We are not to throw Tradition with a capital 'T' overboard. To jettison the spirit-led experience of the Church over two millennia will not help us. Discerning tradition from nostalgia, we must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures:

'Do not be afraid.'

**LIVING THE GOSPEL**

**Christian**

*What does it mean to describe oneself as a Christian today? A common understanding might be 'one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ'. Perhaps, based on the understanding of what it meant to be a disciple, we might better describe a Christian as one who learns from the teachings of Jesus and seeks to emulate the work of Jesus. That is, a Christian is someone who models their life on the example of Jesus and is the face of Jesus to others. That's a tougher job description than just turning up to church once a week or putting a bumper sticker on your car.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
**1st Reading:** Is 56:1, 6-7  
**2nd Reading:** Rom 11:13-15, 29-32  
**Gospel:** Mt 15:21-28

**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:** James Bailey, 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:** Mary Brodbeck, George Cattermole, Bob Crouch, Ellen Holz, Joan Kealy, John Lynch, Tony Smith. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Mary Agnew. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

A Requiem Mass will be said at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Belmont at 5pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 for the repose of the soul of the late father of Solomon Okovido.

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	<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>
Parish Secretary	<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>
Facebook	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>			
Singleton	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 0437 374 929
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
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
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Madison Keevill	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		G McMillan
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	P Conroy S Trunk	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Gresham Family	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	P Boyd		J & A Phillips	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas S McAlister	C Anderson L Harrison		<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J & A Phillips	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		D Clarke				

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
<b>14 August</b> St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	<b>15 August</b> THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	<b>16 August</b> St Stephen of Hungary	<b>17 August</b>	<b>18 August</b>	<b>19 August</b> St John Eudes	<b>20 August</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton  11.00am Mass Mercy Home	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Mass St Catherine's Greta

**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 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.

## Volunteers Needed for Branxton Mass



The St Brigid's Branxton Mass roster needs some extra readers and people to bring the gifts forward during the offertory. If you can volunteer your time at least once a month, please speak with Mercia or Sue at Mass.

## Holy Day of Obligation – Feast of the Assumption

Historically derived, holy days of obligation were special occasions on which Catholics, over the age of reason, were obliged to attend Mass. They were also encouraged to refrain from any work or involvement with commerce which would interfere with their participation in divine worship. In Australia, the two Holy Days of Obligation, other than Sundays, are *Christmas and Assumption of Our Lady*. Collections during Mass are also taken on those days.

## Celebrate the Feast of the Assumption

Join us for dinner after Mass on the evening of **Tuesday 15 August** at Club Singleton from 5.30pm to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. If you wish to attend, please place your name on the sheet at the back of St Patrick's Church.

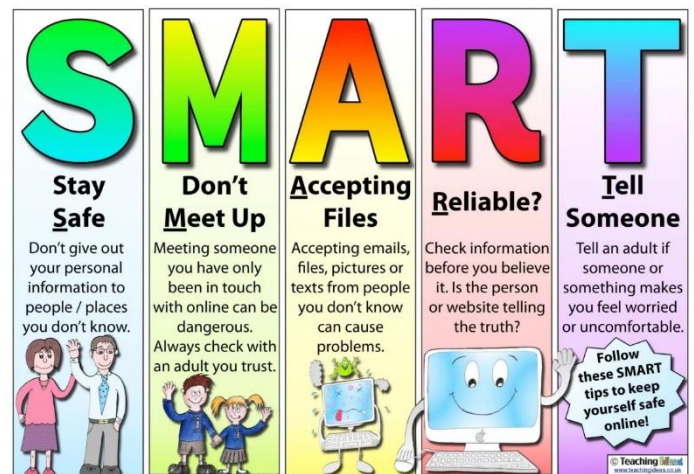
## Mission and Evangelisation Team News

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. UPDATE: Worksheets are also available at Branxton and Greta churches.

The sheets in Singleton are in KID'S CORNER 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.

If you have any items such as pencils, puzzles or other resources you would like to donate to KID'S CORNER, please speak with Frances or Tahnee.

## Spotlight on Safeguarding – August 2023



For how to stay safe online and to get support if compromise occurs, go to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/id-support-nsw>

## 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 4: WITNESSING TO THE EQUAL DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN**

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

#### **Article 1**

That the Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to ensuring:

- a. through formal policies and intentional practice, the experiences and perspectives of women, including women who exercise ministry, are heard, considered and valued at local, diocesan and national levels. This is particularly important for matters which affect them distinctively;
- b. that women are appropriately represented in decision-making structures of Church governance at the parish, diocese or eparchy, and national level, and in Church agencies, entities, and organisations;
- c. that dioceses and eparchies recognise and value publicly, and properly remunerate, women who lead and serve in the Church in various ways.

#### **Article 2**

That each Australian diocese and eparchy commits to supporting, with appropriate formation and recognition, new opportunities for women to participate in ministries that engage with the most important aspects of diocesan and parish life.

#### **Article 3**

That the Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to implementing more fully the undertakings made by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in their Social Justice Statement, *Woman and Man: The Bishops Respond* (2000), in response to the research report *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus* (1999).

#### **Article 4**

That should the universal law of the Church be modified to authorize the diaconate for women, the Plenary Council recommends that the Australian Bishops examine how best to implement it in the context of the Church in Australia.

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.