

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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

20 August 2023

First Reading **Is 56:1, 6-7**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15, 29-32
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 15:21-28**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

On Catholic Dogs

A pagan woman approaches a Jewish man and she begs Jesus to heal her daughter.

Jesus gives a dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people.

This remarkable pagan woman stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

Jesus recognises her faith and the daughter was healed. This story was put in the Gospels to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory.

That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'world-wide'.

We could pause for a moment to celebrate this Canaanite woman as the first 'Catholic'!

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Is 22: 19-23 2nd Reading: Rom 11:33-36 Gospel: Mt 16:13-20
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, Helen Ralston and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Anniversaries: John Archinal and Dot Spencer. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace. Recently Deceased: Des Ryan (Nelson Bay), Tamara Fidyka (Greta 28 Aug 11.30am). May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them. Baptisms: Koby Standing and Xavier Whittington. Called by name to be a child of God A Requiem Mass will be said at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Belmont at 5pm on Friday 25 th 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.
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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	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
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 27 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 Woolley
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole			
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		K Ingold	E Thomas		A Skardon	
Offertory	C Trunk A Trunk	C Miller A Humphreys		VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
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
21 August St Pius X	22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23 August St Rose of Lima	24 August ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	25 August St Louis St Joseph Calasanz	26 August	27 August 21 st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN PM	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> SCAE <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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 or visit 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.

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.

Catechism in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz

Understand Your Catholic Faith with The Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

With this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

Link to the YouTube Channel

<https://youtube.com/@TheCatechismInAYear>

It's about 20 minutes to 30 minutes long and people can listen or watch it any time of the day.

Another chat bot like chat GPT

www.catholic.chat/.

Get AI powered answers - child, youth, adult, and scholar level answers to any question based on Catechism of catholic church. The power and speed of AI now at the service of God's kingdom.

'Come Rest a While' – Reflection Day

Saturday 9 September, Charlestown, 10am to 3.30pm

In appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Details and registration at www.come-rest-2023.eventbrite.com.au For enquiries or registration assistance contact sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.

Can you help CatholicCare Make a Difference?



CatholicCare's Community Kitchens offer more than just a meal. With the assistance of volunteers, CatholicCare has created a space where people can feel safe and enjoy the company of others and access other services if needed. We ask you to give a gift to our Make a Difference Appeal to help us to continue to feed and connect people through our Community Kitchens and other non-funded programs. At CatholicCare our programs really do make a difference in our local community. We can't do this work without the generosity of our community and people like you. Your tax-deductible donation will go a long way. Donating is simple and only takes a few steps.

Visit: www.mycause.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference



Hope Tree Project 13 – Group Playground for Anugraha School

Anugraha special school for the mentally challenged was started in 2000. Managed by Sangli mission society of MST Missionaries. The name Anugraha means Blessing.

The school is situated in a remote village named Khed, in the state of Maharashtra. After a survey in the area in 2000, it was found that there are many mentally challenged children who have no access to education or other services.

It was after the findings of this survey that the Sangli mission society decided to open the school to serve these children. At present there are 55 students at the school. Students are given training in ADL (activities of daily living), physiotherapy, speech therapy etc.

Students are from poor families, so they are only able to contribute very little towards the fees. The school relies on donations from benefactors to continue teaching the students and stay open. They do not receive any government grants towards running of the school.

The first principal of the school was Sr Rosebel. In 2001 she put up a playground for the students. After serving the school for about 15 years she was transferred to another school in Kerala state. Now she has come back to the school and found all the play equipment for the children in a dilapidated condition. She wants to repair and make a better playground for the students.

St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton rose to the challenge hosting a series of fundraisers at school and they raised enough to donate \$2600AUD – which is INR143,443.00 of the required INR216,000.00.

The amount of \$2600 AUD (plus transfer fees) was donated to put towards the purchase of the playground equipment. The playground was opened and blessed in July 2023 with lots of excited children ready to play!

