

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

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**Social Justice Sunday**

**27 August 2023**

**First Reading**

**Is 22:19-23**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:  
I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8**

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;  
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Rom 11:33-36**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt 16:18**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are Peter,  
the rock on which I will build my Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Mt 16:13-20**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



**REFLECTION  
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

**What's in a Name?**

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about 'my church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild my church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
21<sup>st</sup> 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, Catherine Sneesby and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Pearl Banister, Ron Cox, Agnes Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Tamara Fidyka (Greta 4/9/23 11.30am), Robert McCarter (Bundanoon). **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>

## 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 3 SEPTEMBER 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		G McMillan
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas C Harvey	D Lerch	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	P Goodwin <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	C Langford	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	K Jones K Jones	J Nightingale N Ernst	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<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>28 August</b> <i>St Augustine</i>	<b>29 August</b> <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	<b>30 August</b>	<b>31 August</b>	<b>1 September</b> <i>Spring Ember Day</i>	<b>2 September</b>	<b>3 September</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN PM</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<b>NO MASS</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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 Office Hours this week**

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 29 August as Fr Thomas and Erica will be attending a meeting in Muswellbrook regarding Governance of the parishes.

## **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.

This training will be held at Singleton Golf Club on Saturday 30 September 2023 from 9.30am. 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.

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

St Patrick's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 2 September 2023 at 9.20am. All are invited to pray for anyone who's anniversary occurs at this time. We will particularly remember:

- ✠ John McAleer
- ✠ Margaret Daniel

## **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.



## **Rosary Park Catholic School – Canteen Helpers**

Do you have time to spare to help in the canteen at Rosary Park Catholic School or St Catherine's Catholic College? Please contact the schools for more information on volunteering.

# SEPTEMBER FAITH CHALLENGE

## **September Faith Challenge!**

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. For the month of September, we are invited to unite our own cross with the cross of Jesus in an intentional way. To help with our own spiritual reflection the Singleton Liturgy Team has created a September Challenge for our Parishes. At the back of the Church are booklets to use as a reflective tool on how we demonstrate our Catholic values each day. This month we are being challenged to make intentional choices and reflect on our actions. A suggested task has been provided for each week of September and space for you to add your own challenges. We challenge you to make FOUR intentional choices each week to demonstrate your Catholic Values outside of church. In union with Christ, may our sacrifice bring forth love and life into our lives and the lives of those around us.

## **Senior Singles Lunch**

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 12 September at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any singles very welcome to come along fellowship and 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 13 September 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 – Spring Affair Luncheon**

St Brigid's Caritas are celebrating Spring with lunch at Miller Park Hotel, 12 noon on Friday 15 September 2023. Please join us, all are welcome. Please call Mercia for more details or to book a spot 0447 819 889.

## **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.

## **Social Justice Sunday**



Copies of the Social Justice Statement for 2023-24 are available at each church or you can view at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>





Friday 18 August 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you about the Perpetual Day of Remembrance only a few days after returning from our Diocesan World Youth Day (WYD) pilgrimage. The experience of WYD is a gift that I will continue to reflect on over the coming weeks. Primary amongst the gifts I am receiving is an awareness of the blessing young people are and bring to our Church, and a renewed hope for all we can become as we continue to journey together, building the Kingdom of God here and now.

Coming to reflect on the importance of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance immediately following my experience of WYD has sharpened my sense of the imperative for us to remember and pray to ensure that the abuse that devastated the lives of so many children and young people and their families never happens again.

Being new to the diocese I am looking towards my first experience of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, established throughout the diocese by my predecessor Bishop Bill Wright. This day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected. To further embed our remembrance in the life and prayer of the church, in 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* as a feast inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. This was explained in the [letter](#) accompanying the [decree](#).

It is my desire that we continue to mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our parishes – particularly on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday – our schools, our agencies, our communities, and households.

Some may find this remembering uncomfortable. Some may even prefer that we stop remembering. We are, however, the faithful people of God, and when one of us suffers, we all suffer. This means that we are called to stand with and pray for our brothers and sisters who are often unable to pray themselves. This is a necessary part of who we claim ourselves to be as the Church.

Remembering also helps to reignite hope. As Fr Richard Lennan, one of our own, reminded us in one of his recent presentations in the Diocese:

- Hope builds faith, acknowledging that God holds us,
- Hope expresses itself in love, that nurtures the hope of others,
- Hope enables us to name reality, it is neither avoidance nor wishful thinking, and
- Hope enables us to face what is broken and engage with change.

In the spirit of that understanding of Christian hope, I urge us all to embrace our marking of the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*.

Yours in that same hope,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

**Perpetual Day of Remembrance  
Sunday 10 September 2023**