

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

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

3 September 2023

First Reading

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl

and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 12:1-2

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

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

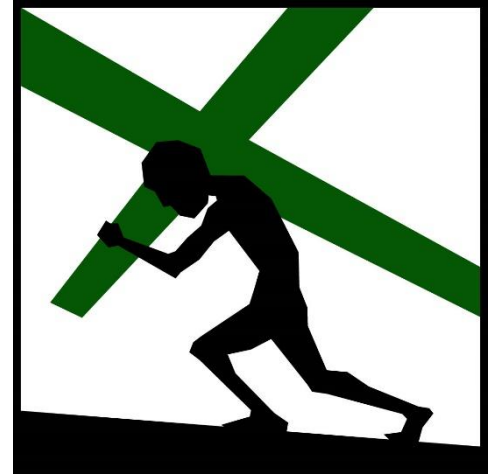
Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

'Get behind me, Satan'

We have to get one terrible thought out of our heads, i.e. that the Heavenly Father of Jesus wanted him to suffer a tortured, agonising death. Yet we do say: 'It was necessary that Jesus suffer and die.' What can this mean? I believe this refers to the necessity of divine mission and the necessity of divine love.

First, it was the Father's will that Jesus remain true to the mission to preach and embody the gospel of mercy and forgiveness. It was inevitable that powerful elites would find this intolerable and have Jesus eliminated. Secondly, God so loved the world where death ravages human beings, that God determined to absorb the suffering and pangs of death.

The temptation to avoid that dreadful necessity lead Jesus to rebuke Peter: 'Get behind me, Satan', a terrible variation of the initial call: 'Come, follow me.'

We could pause for a moment to very consciously make the sign of the Cross, the consequence of Jesus' mission and love for us.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Perpetual Day of Remembrance
1st Reading: Ez 37:1-14
2nd Reading: Rom 14:7-9
Gospel: Lk 1:46-56

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: Margaret Brooker, Ellen Garner, Drusilla Nowlan, John McAleer, Kate Roberts. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Tasmyn Lee (Singleton). **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	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 10 SEPTEMBER 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		
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	K Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	C Anderson L Harrison	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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
4 September	5 September <i>St Teresa of Calcutta</i>	6 September	7 September	8 September <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9 September <i>St Peter Claver</i>	10 September PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
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 Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am SCAE 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 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.

CHANGE OF DATE: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please be advised that due to a clash with the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, the Sacramental Program children will now receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the weekend of **16/17 September**. Singleton Parish children will still attend a practice on Monday 4 September at 5.30pm in St Patrick's Church and Branxton Parish children will attend their practice on Friday 8 September at 5.30pm in St Brigid's Church. All families were emailed this 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.

Rosary Park Catholic School – Canteen Helpers

Rosary Park School Branxton would love the help of our parishioners who may have some spare time on Mondays and Fridays (morning) to assist in our school canteen. We would only need your help for a maximum of 3 hours on these days. All help and training would be given to support you. Contact the school office on 49381541 for more details or to join our canteen roster. Even if you have registered as a volunteer in the Parish you will register as a volunteer for the school at

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

This will take you to Volunteer page then click on the heading **Volunteer Registration Form** and it will take you into the form.

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.

Evangelisation Team Follow-Up Meeting

A follow-up meeting of the Mission and Evangelisation Team will be held on Saturday 9 September 2023 at 10am in St Patrick's Church, Singleton. Brendon Mannyx will be there to guide the session. All are welcome to attend with ideas on growing our Parishes.

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 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.

Australia Needs Fatima – October Month of the Rosary

The Public Rosary will be held at St Catherine's Greta on Saturday 14 October commencing at 10.00am. This is to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the miracle at Fatima. As this is an outdoor event, please bring along a chair should you need to be seated during the Rosary. If you have any questions, please contact Darryl on 0418662672.

Pastoral Placement Program – Applications for 2024 Open

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the Diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants with a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices. For more information and to apply go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/

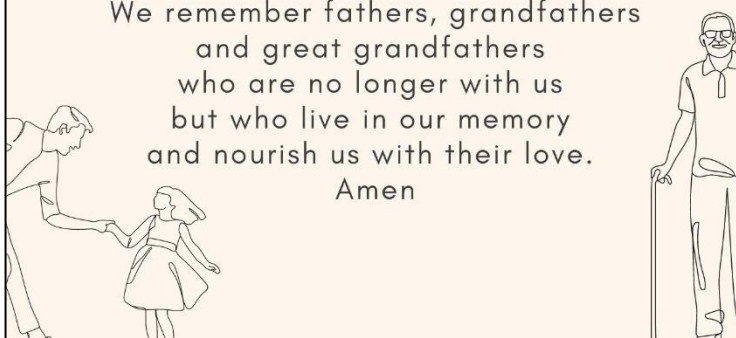


HAPPY Father's DAY

God our Father, through the intercession of St Joseph, the foster father of Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we give you thanks and praise for all fathers in the world.

We pray for them so that they may find courage and perseverance to balance work, family, and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live in our memory and nourish us with their love.
Amen



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"If you want to be my followers you must take up your cross and follow me."

START **I** F Y O E
 Y D W U T
 Z N A L W
 V T U E R
 D F Y M I T X P I A B O K
 G O H E B O Y S R U S T U
 J L R C A T A O U M H T J
 F L O W E R S Y E T Q A W
 S D L K O P F G P U E K B
 E W S O Y
 A V I U Z
 T X C R A
 S O R Q H
 S D U E O
 A R K Y S
 N G L L O
 D F O F W
 R I E P M
 E U W T **E**

September – the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows

September is one of the months that holds great significance in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar.

The Catholic Liturgical Calendar dedicates the months of May and October, also known as Marian Months to the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the mother of Jesus Christ and our Spiritual mother too.

The month of September is devoted to Our Lady of Sorrows. Our Lady of Sorrows Feast is celebrated on the 15th of September.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

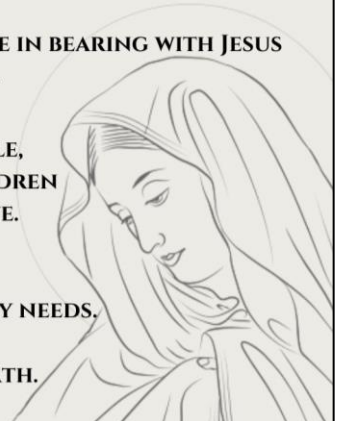
OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS,
 WITH STRENGTH FROM ABOVE YOU STOOD BY THE
 CROSS, SHARING IN THE SUFFERINGS OF JESUS,
 AND WITH TENDER CARE YOU BORE HIM IN YOUR ARMS,
 MOURNING AND WEeping.

WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR FAITH,
 WHICH ACCEPTED THE LIFE GOD PLANNED FOR YOU.

WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR HOPE,
 WHICH TRUSTED THAT GOD WOULD DO GREAT THINGS
 IN YOU.

WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR LOVE IN BEARING WITH JESUS
 THE SORROWS OF HIS PASSION.

HOLY MARY,
 MAY WE FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE,
 AND STAND BY ALL YOUR CHILDREN
 WHO NEED COMFORT AND LOVE.
 MOTHER OF GOD,
 STAND BY US IN OUR TRIALS
 AND CARE FOR US IN OUR MANY NEEDS.
 PRAY FOR US NOW
 AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
 AMEN



LIVING THE GOSPEL

Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.