



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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

17 September 2023

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

*(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.
(R.)

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *(R.)*

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34
Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 18:21-35
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Forgiveness

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life.

It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

We could pause for a moment to pray:

'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Is 55:6-9
2nd Reading: Phil 1:20-24, 37
Gospel: Mt 20:1-16

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, Tracey Dagg, 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: Antoni Amma, Kathleen Brady, Roy Holz, Carmel Perrett. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Patrick Moore. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Lottie Pike (Branxton), Lilly Lennard and Hudson Wadsworth (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Wedding: Laura Nadile and Dylan Walkinshaw (St Patrick's 23/9/23 2.30pm). **What God joins together, let no one put asunder.**

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		Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca	
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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton Parish	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 24 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		G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	SCAE LEADER	H Rapp	
Readers	H Hartcher S Trunk	D Lerch	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	J Nightingale C 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
18 September	19 September St Januarius	20 September Sts Andrew Kim Tae-Gön, Priest, Paul Chông Ha-Sang, And Companions, Martyrs	21 September ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	22 September	23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina	24 September 25 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm SCAE Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
FR THOMAS ATTENDING CLERGY RETREAT						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 or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

CHANGE OF DATE: 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 now be held at Club Singleton on Saturday 7 October 2023 from 9.30am.** Anyone who is required to attend this training has been sent an invitation to register. The training is open to all parishioners to attend if they wish. **Please RSVP to the Parish Office by 29 September.**

Parish Changes This Week

Fr Thomas will be attending the clergy retreat from Sunday afternoon until Friday afternoon this coming week. This means that there will be Liturgy of the Word weekday services in Singleton and no Mass in Branxton or Greta on weekdays. The Parish Office will be open on Monday 18 September and CLOSED on Wednesday 20 September.

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.

Visits to Our Housebound Parishioners

As a result of the Mission and Evangelisation Team Meeting, a committee has been formed to visit housebound and lonely parishioners. If you are aware of anyone in this position, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Julie Dunn on 0438 722 512.



2023 Public Rosary – October is Month of the Rosary

The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (October 13, 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer.

Join the nation-wide rosary chain at St Catherine's Church Greta on **Saturday 14 October from 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.

Or join the rosary chain at St Brigid's Church Branxton on **Saturday 14 October at 5.30pm.** For more details please contact Sue or Mercia on 0447 819 889.

Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Lybia

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support **Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.** Donate at www.caritas.org.au.

Season of Creation Gathering

This Season of Creation you are invited to join us for prayer and reflection, then participate in the 5km Awabakal Coastal Walk. It is an opportunity to surround yourself with the beauty of God's creation and consider how we might respond as the people of God caring for our common home. On **Saturday 30 September from 9am-12pm** we will commence with prayer and reflection at St John Vianney's Church Redhead, then walk 5km on the Awabakal Coastal Walk and loop back to Redhead. Light lunch provided. To register go to www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-community-walk-tickets-704984426397.

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.

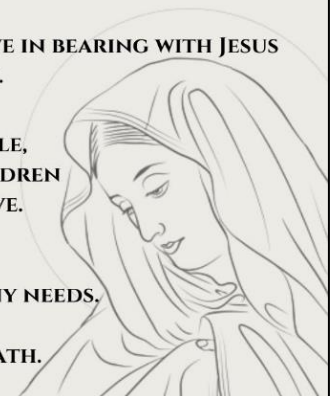
WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR FAITH,
WHICH ACCEPTED THE LIFE GOD PLANNED FOR YOU.

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



CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brauxton Parish

Ellie Ayscough

Lachlan Bartley

Elke Bereza

Ely Burg

Levi Cousins

Liam Dobos

Ivy Hanlon

Charlize Lott

Isaac Lunan

Addison Saxby

Dante Sepulveda

Carter Swan

Leah Wishart

Hudson Wyatt

Congratulations to these children who this weekend become full members of the Catholic community.

May the gift of Jesus' presence bring joy and blessing to you today and always.

Singleton Parish

Sofia Abenes

Barney Arrowsmith

Emiliano Aroca Lopez

Willow Brooker

Jarvis Campbell

William Campbell

Indie Crawford

Josie Cruickshanks

Cooper East

Odhran Gibbons

William Hartmann

Ava Holland

Lucy Keen

Isla Lombardo

Isabella Martin

Isla Martin

Matilda Martin

Noah McLachlan

Olivia Moberg

Leo O'Connell

Dean O'Leary

Evelina O'Nions

Cheran Perera

Cheshan Perera

William Stevenson-Byrnes

Louie Shaw

Charles Slater

Harvey Spinks

Eli Sproule

Remy Tanzer

Evelien van de Burgt

Brandon Vella

Alana Williams

