



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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

World Day of Migrants & Refugees

24 September 2023

First Reading

Is 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Phil 1:20-24, 27**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether
by my life or by my death. Life to me, of
course, is Christ, but then death would
bring me something more; but then again,
if living in this body means doing work
which is having good results – I do not
know what I should choose. I am caught in
this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with
Christ, which would be very much the
better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Acts 16:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at
daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard.
He made an agreement with the workers
for one denarius a day, and sent them to
his vineyard. Going out at about the third
hour he saw others standing idle in the
market place and said to them, "You go to
my vineyard too and I will give you a fair
wage." So they went. At about the sixth
hour and again at about the ninth hour, he
went out and did the same. Then at about
the eleventh hour he went out and found
more men standing round, and he said to
them, "Why have you been standing here
idle all day?" "Because no one has hired
us" they answered. He said to them, "You
go into my vineyard too." In the evening,
the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff,
"Call the workers and pay them their
wages, starting with the last arrivals and
ending with the first." So those who were
hired at about the eleventh hour came
forward and received one denarius each.
When the first came, they expected to get
more, but they too received one denarius
each. They took it, but grumbled at the
landowner. "The men who came last" they
said "have done only one hour, and you
have treated them the same as us, though
we have done a heavy day's work in all the
heat." He answered one of them and said,
"My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did
we not agree on one denarius? Take your
earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-
comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right
to do what I like with my own? Why be
envious because I am generous?" Thus the
last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of
Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted
for the just wage of one denarius and did
the hard work over the course of a long
day. They were outraged when
latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the
Christian community of the first century
because there was great antagonism
between the Jews who became followers
of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'.
Jewish Christians looked at their long
history of hardship preparing for the
coming of the Messiah. And, now, here
were these Gentiles who had done
nothing by comparison, and God
appeared to be granting them whatever
it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the
Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out
of *their* idea that God's grace could *not*
be lavished on those outside the
boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by
happy surprise by those billions of
people outside the Church who, by the
grace of God, will share with us 'the
Bread of Life', given for the salvation of
all the world.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 1st Reading: Ez 18:25-28 2nd Reading: Phil 2:1-11 Gospel: Mt 21:28-32
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: Ron Brady, Tracey Dagg, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Harry Lennard, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, Jen Phillips, Helen Ralston, Olga Roberts, Catherine Sneesby and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Marie Ernst, Greg Ernst, Greg Dunn, Jenny Hall, Arlie Kennedy, Richard Paget, George Brodbeck and Clyde Standing. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Peter Ernst and James Bailey. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

First Holy Communion: Isla Martin and Brandon Vella (Singleton - Saturday).

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	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	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 1 OCTOBER 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	SCAE LEADER	M Ingold	G Cattermole			
Readers	P Conroy C Szumilas	L Gorczyca	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		M Ingold	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	L Waters family	C Miller A Humphreys	G Cattermole	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
25 September	26 September <i>St Cosmas & Damian</i>	27 September <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	28 September <i>St Wenceslaus St Lawrence Ruiz & companions</i>	29 September <i>STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL ARCHANGELS</i>	30 September <i>St Jerome</i>	1 October 26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

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.**

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.

109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The theme of Pope Francis' Message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Freedom to choose whether to migrate or stay." The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) has created online resources, for everyone to access to help celebrate this special day. Resources available at: <https://bit.ly/ACMROKit2023>. See the back page for Pope Francis' message.

St Patrick's Parish First Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 October 2023 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the souls of all those who have anniversaries in October. At 9am each Saturday St Patrick's Parish prays the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We would like to invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 11 October 2023 from 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Crescent Singleton Heights. Please enter via Wilcox Avenue. All are welcome and we would love to see there.



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 / Libya

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.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

To the 2023 Year 12 class of St Catherine's Catholic College graduating this week, we wish you all the best for your upcoming HSC exams and keep you in our prayers for whatever the future may bring you. Continue to live your lives with Faith, Harmony and Integrity and you will do yourselves proud.



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2023

Dear brothers and sisters!

The migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return. As a contribution to this effort, I have chosen to devote the Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land.

"Free to leave, free to stay" was the title of an initiative of solidarity promoted several years ago by the Italian Episcopal Conference as a concrete response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration movements. From attentive listening to the Particular Churches, I have come to see that ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him'" (Mt 2:13). The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not. Conflicts, natural disasters, or more simply the impossibility of living a dignified and prosperous life in one's native land is forcing millions of persons to leave. Already in 2003, Saint John Paul II stated that "as regards migrants and refugees, building conditions of peace means in practice being seriously committed to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country" (Message for the 90th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 3).

"They took their livestock and the goods that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him" (Gen 46:6). A grave famine forced Jacob and his entire family to seek refuge in Egypt, where his son Joseph ensured their survival. Persecutions, wars, atmospheric phenomena and dire poverty are among the most visible causes of forced migrations today. Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation. Eliminating these causes and thus putting an end to

forced migration calls for shared commitment on the part of all, in accordance with the responsibilities of each. This commitment begins with asking what we can do, but also what we need to stop doing. We need to make every effort to halt the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people's resources and the devastation of our common home.

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:44-45). The ideal of the first Christian community seems so distant from today's reality! To make migration a choice that is truly free, efforts must be made to ensure to everyone an equal share in the common good, respect for his or her fundamental rights, and access to an integral human development. Only in this way will we be able to offer to each person the possibility of a dignified and fulfilling life, whether individually or within families. Clearly, the principal responsibility falls to the countries of origin and their leaders, who are called to practise a good politics – one that is transparent, honest, farsighted and at the service of all, especially those most vulnerable. At the same time, they must be empowered to do this, without finding themselves robbed of their natural and human resources and without outside interference aimed at serving the interests of a few. Where circumstances make possible a decision either to migrate or to stay, there is a need to ensure that the decision be well informed and carefully considered, in order to avoid great numbers of men, women and children falling victim to perilous illusions or unscrupulous traffickers.

"In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property" (Lev 25:13). For the people of Israel, the celebration of the jubilee year represented an act of collective justice: "everyone was allowed to return to their original situation, with the cancellation of all debts, restoration of the land, and an opportunity once more to enjoy the freedom proper to the members of the People of God" (Catechesis, 10 February 2016). As we approach the Holy Year of 2025, we do well to remember this aspect of the jubilee celebrations. Joint efforts are needed by individual countries and the international community to ensure that all enjoy the right not to be forced to emigrate, in other words, the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one's own country. This right has yet to be codified, but it is one of fundamental importance, and its protection must be seen as a shared responsibility on the part of all States with respect to a common good that transcends national borders. Indeed, since the world's resources are not unlimited, the development of the economically poorer countries depends on the capacity for sharing that we can manage to generate among all countries. Until this right is guaranteed – and here we are speaking of a long process – many people will still have to emigrate in order to seek a better life.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Mt 25:35-36). These words are a constant admonition to see in the migrant not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door. Consequently, even as we work to ensure that in every case migration is the fruit of a free decision, we are called to show maximum respect for the dignity of each migrant; this entails accompanying and managing waves of migration as best we can, constructing bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration. In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone.

The synodal path that we have undertaken as a Church leads us to see in those who are most vulnerable – among whom are many migrants and refugees – special companions on our way, to be loved and cared for as brothers and sisters. Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.



Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 May 2023

FRANCIS