

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

MISSION SUNDAY

22 October 2023

First Reading

Is 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, Of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens **(R.)**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Thes 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Whose Image and Likeness?

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. *They* are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Ex 22:20-26
2nd Reading: 1 Thes 1:5-10
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

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: *Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, Joyce Meissner, Jen Phillips, Helen Ralston, Olga Roberts, Catherine Sneesby, Patricia Wilson and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

Anniversaries: *Penny Nagle, Frank McAleer, Evelyn Meyn, Ian Searston, Vic Wilcher, Willena Graham, Bill Ryan, Jerzy Wawrzyniak. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Peter Evans (Weds 25/10 11am Singleton) . 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

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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Patrick's Parish	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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
St Brigid's Parish	Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i> Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 02 5507 4048
	Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i> 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 29 OCTOBER 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Woolley
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	H Hartcher C Szumilas	A Humphreys	P Boyd	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Offertory	L Waters family	J Nightingale N Ernst	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
23 October <i>St John of Capistrano</i>	24 October <i>St Anthony Claret</i>	25 October	26 October	27 October	28 October STS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES	29 October 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A MISSION SUNDAY
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	6.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	6.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am Anointing Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.00am Novena Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	9.20am Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		NO MASS <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		6.00pm Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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.

Parish Update for this Week

This week Fr Thomas will be attending the Council of Priests Meeting on Thursday 26 October so Mass will not be said in Branxton.

Parish Schools Update

St Catherine's Catholic College and Rosary Park Catholic School will be attending Mass again this term and Fr Thomas will be making visits to the schools to speak with the children in their classrooms.

Please also keep the year 12 students of our parishes in your prayers as they sit their HSC exams over the next few weeks.

St Patrick's Parish

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, where we honour Our Lady of the Rosary. Join us to pray the holy rosary in St Patrick's Church Singleton at 9:30am on Sundays in October before the 10am Mass. Rosary beads can be left in the basket at the back of the church to be blessed by Fr Thomas.

St Patrick's Family Group

Our hope is that our Parish Family Group will be a source that encourages the fostering of strong familial bonds, mutual support, and the transmission of faith and values across generations. Come join us after 10am Mass this Sunday at Club Singleton. There is a play area available for children and something for everyone on the menu. All are welcome!

St Patrick's Parish First Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 4 November 2023 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the souls of **Kathleen Bowd, Barbara Flanagan** and 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 8 November 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.



Give to God what belongs to God.

Advent 2023: With Anticipation and Joy

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now, and to be changed by it. To access the resource, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

We Need Your Help!

The Teachers of Special Religious Education in our Diocese undertake a vital evangelising role, educating children and young people and forming them in the Catholic faith. Fortunately, there are amazing, generous people who play an important role in contributing to the formation of children. Unfortunately, there are not enough teachers to meet the demands of all the classes needed. Many children are missing out. All training and support is provided. If you or someone you know is interested in teaching, please contact us at formed@mn.catholic.org.au

24th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

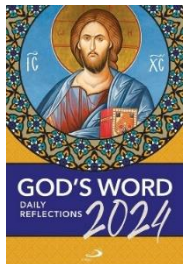
Please join us for the 24th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning, where everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be acknowledged in a celebration of inclusion and diversity. Sunday 29 October, 2.00pm- 2.45pm followed by afternoon tea at St Mary's Church, 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay. RSVP: Not required, however for more information or specific requirements contact Lizzie Watkin on lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au to discuss your needs.

2024 God's Word – Daily Reflections

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection.

For \$15 the God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections brings you:

- Scripture readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible;
- Inspiring reflections by eminent Australasian spiritual writers;
- Liturgical information for the day;
- Space to note down important events and personal reflections;
- Produced in the popular flexi-cover format.



Copies are available at each church. Please pay using the envelope provided with each book and place on collection plate.

The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections



Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023** - a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Booklets are **\$5 each** payable using the envelope within the book.

Jesus tells us that we belong to God. We can give ourselves to God by following Jesus' teachings and loving others as he did. Draw a picture of yourself doing something as Jesus would have done.



Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act and autonomy over their health and well-being.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina's, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

THE HOLY ROSARY

traditional form

Each prayer of the Rosary is prayed in the following order on each bead or space between beads.

INTRODUCTION

1. Sign of the Cross
– bless yourself while holding the crucifix
2. The Apostles' Creed
3. Our Father
- 4-6. Hail Mary
7. Glory Be

FIRST DECADE

8. Announce the mystery
9. Our Father
- 10-19. Hail Mary
– meditate on the mystery
20. Glory Be

SECOND DECADE

21. Announce the mystery
22. Our Father
- 23-32. Hail Mary
– meditate on the mystery
33. Glory Be

THIRD DECADE

34. Announce the mystery
35. Our Father
- 36-45. Hail Mary
– meditate on the mystery
46. Glory Be

FOURTH DECADE

47. Announce the mystery
48. Our Father
- 49-58. Hail Mary
– meditate on the mystery
59. Glory Be

FIFTH DECADE

60. Announce the mystery
61. Our Father
- 62-71. Hail Mary
– meditate on the mystery
72. Glory Be

CONCLUSION

73. Hail Holy Queen
Sign of the Cross



PRAYERS OF THE HOLY ROSARY

SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

OUR FATHER (the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (the Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN (the Salve Regina)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

