

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

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**21 January 2024**

**First Reading**      **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**  
A reading from the prophet Jonah.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4**

*(R.) Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.*

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*

**Second Reading**      **1 Cor 7:29-31**  
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Mark 1:15**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The kingdom of God is near:**  
**believe the Good News!**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      **Mark 1:14-20**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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



**REFLECTION**  
**BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

*The Eyes Have It*

When Jesus says to Simon, Andrew, James and John 'I will make you into fishers of men', then, amongst the many levels of meaning they would have heard the allusion to Ezekiel 29:3-5.


Jesus was telling them that he was creating a society of liberated human beings, called the 'Kingdom of God'. This would involve struggle against powerful elites, the pharaohs of this world, who oppress and enslave people. It would be as dangerous and demand as much energy as required to haul a crocodile out of the Nile.

Yet they did so, 'straightaway'. Because of the call of Jesus? No. At least, not that alone. We read 'He saw Simon and his brother Andrew . . . He saw James and his brother John.' They were responding not to his voice alone but to his eyes. His is like the attentive gaze of a parent loving a baby into a beautiful future. Jesus looks at you and at me wanting to love us into a barely imaginable future.

We could pause for a moment to remember that when His call comes, demanding an 'aye' or a 'nay', the Eyes have it.

How will you answer?

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**Have you thought?**  
**Year B**

*Although the new liturgical year began with Advent, this week's reading is the first time that we enter into the cycle of the gospel for this liturgical year, the Gospel of Mark. The Church calendar works on a cycle of three years: Year A; Year B; and Year C. Each of the three synoptic gospels is associated with one of the years: Matthew in Year A; Mark in Year B; and Luke in Year C. Throughout this liturgical cycle we will move through the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end – usually in the part of the liturgical calendar known as Ordinary Time.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B  
**1st Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28

**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:** Lorraine Cooper, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Bob MacDonnell, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Selene Maree Stanholm-Atkins and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Baptisms:** Rocco Adam (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Anniversaries:** Percy Nowlan, Alfred Thomas and Cec Crouch. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

*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>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<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>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<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 28 JANUARY 2024

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	SCAE LEADER REQ	J Dries	J Dries	J Woolley
<b>Commentator</b>	SCAE LEADER	L Harrison	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	E Thomas	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	A Skardon	
<b>Offertory</b>	J Stafa J Stafa	C Miller A Humphreys	<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>22 January</b> <i>St Vincent</i>	<b>23 January</b>	<b>24 January</b> <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	<b>25 January</b> <i>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</i>	<b>26 January</b> <i>AUSTRALIA DAY</i>	<b>27 January</b> <i>St Timothy &amp; Titus</i> <i>St Angela Merici</i>	<b>28 January</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR B
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Anointing Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>  <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>Glendonbrook</i>	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> <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](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**

Due to the public holiday on Friday 26 January, the Parish office will be closed. Bulletins will be published on Thursday. Please have items for the bulletin submitted by Wednesday morning.

## **2024 Parish Fiesta**



## **PARISH FIESTA 2024 IN HONOUR OF SENOR SANTO NINO SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

MASS AT 10:00 am  
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Followed by lunch and celebrations at  
Singleton Civic Centre.

**PLEASE JOIN US**

## **Singleton Community Praise and Prayer Gathering**

You are invited to join the Praise Gathering for Singleton Christians on Sunday 4 February 2024 at the Salvation Army, York Street, Singleton, from 4pm.

This is a gathering together of Christians from across the body of Christ in our community – everyone is invited to come along and join with our brothers and sisters in Christ for a time of Praise and worship, prayer and fellowship.

## **St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon**

Everyone is invited to join the St Brigid's Caritas group for their monthly luncheon at Miller Park Hotel. Upcoming dates are Friday 16 February and Friday 15 March. Lunch will be from 12pm and if you would like to attend, please confirm with Mercia.

## **World Day of Prayer 2024**

The 2024 World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 1 March at 10am in St Brigid's Church, Branxton and at 7pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton. This year's country of focus is Palestine.

As our parishes are hosting the event this year, any help available to assist with the running the service and catering afterwards would be appreciated. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office.

*The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.*

## **Caritas Australia – 2024 Project Compassion Launch**

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to the launch of Caritas Australia's 2024 Project Compassion appeal themed "For All Future Generations". During the Liturgy, all attendees from across our schools, parishes and agencies are called forward by Parish region to receive their 2024 Project Compassion box and commissioning from Bishop Michael Kennedy. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, complimentary pancakes will be served at the Southern Cross Hall.

**\*\*Gluten Free pancakes are available \*\***

Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

**Date:** Shrove Tuesday 13 February 2024

**Time:** 10.15am for a 10:30am start, concluding at approximately 12.30pm.

**Location:** Sacred Heart Cathedral, HAMILTON. Followed by Pancakes in the Southern Cross Hall.

**RSVP:** 5pm, Thursday 8 February 2024 at

<https://PC2024.eventbrite.com.au>

## **RCIA Rite of Election of Catechumens**

The Rite of Election on Sunday 18 February 2024 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Although our Parishes do not have any catechumens this year you are invited to join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 2.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to E [sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au) P 4979 1134.

## **Lenten Reflection – Transformation through Revelation**

During the season of Lent, we are called to look deeply at the human condition, just as Jesus, the Son of God, experienced. We are reminded during this time of hardship, suffering, and ultimately dying that we must stretch ourselves. We must pray and fast from whatever is taking hold of the fullness of life. This time calls for personal reflection and encourages us to look out with missionary eyes to intentionally give to those in need.

To access our Diocesan Resource, Transformation Through Revelation, please visit

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6680/0003733-dio-2024-lenten-program-06.pdf>

## **Parish Bereavement Teams – Expression of Interests**

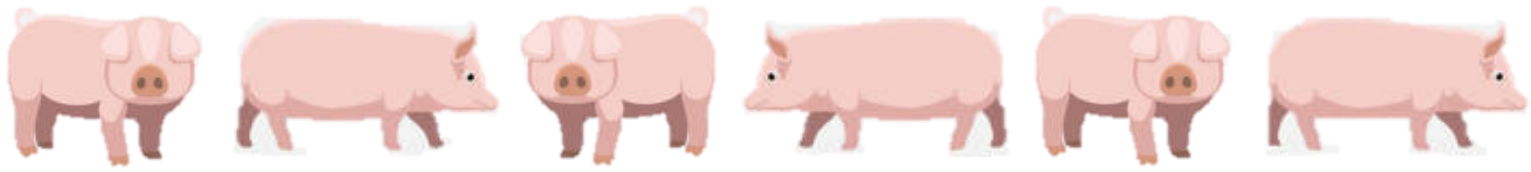
Interested persons are invited to contact the Parish Office to submit an Expression of Interest for either the Singleton or Branxton Parish Bereavement Teams. Members of the Bereavement Teams tirelessly support and service people of our parish in their time of loss. They liaise with the Parish Funeral Directors when funeral arrangements are required. Ministers in the team will undertake the Stepping Stones formation program.

## **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.

Limited copies are available at the Parish Office. Please bring \$15 cash for payment.





Hope Tree  
Group

## Project 14: Martha's Piggery

PROJECT TARGET: \$1800 AUD

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate towards the Hope Tree Group **Project 14: Martha's Piggery**. Thanks to your help, the full amount of \$1800.00AUD was transferred to Martha to assist with building the piggery. This will mean that she has a source of income for years to come to support her, her family and her extended family.

Martha is a single mother with four children, one of whom is severely disabled. She also cares for the son of a relative. She requested assistance from the Hope Tree Group as she was finding it difficult to support all the children with only her income from the work she does in the crop fields of others.

As you can see from the photos, lots of hard work has taken place to ensure the pigs have a very lovely home to keep them safe and dry! So that Martha can now get some pigs, a donation of \$400 AUD will be sent to her in the coming week.

