



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

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

**14 January 2024**

**First Reading** 1 Sm 3:3-10, 19  
*A reading from the first book of Samuel.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9**

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

I waited, I waited for the Lord,  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. *(R.)*

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. *(R.)*

In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. *(R.)*

Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. *(R.)*

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20  
*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 1:41, 17

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**We have found the Messiah:  
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and  
grace.**  
**Alleluia!**

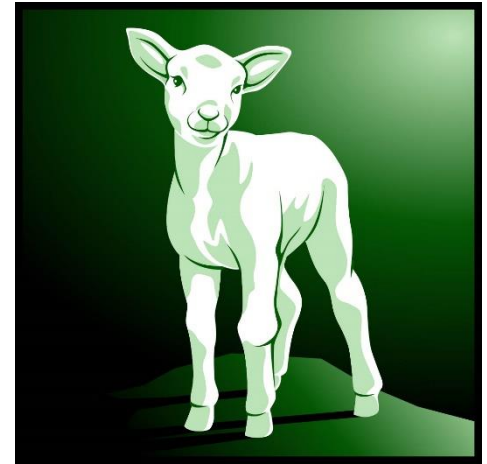
**Gospel** Jn 1:35-42

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

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

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



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

**Named for the Cosmos**

What's in a name? A Lot, if it is God who confers the name. Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of God-for-us, knew the power of naming in relation to calling and destiny.

What is the name which God the creator gives to human beings, to humanity, i.e. to you and to me?

In the beautiful imagery of the Jewish Scriptures, in the book of Genesis, God breathed into the nostrils of a figure made of clay, and names the first human being 'Adam', a name which means 'earth creature' (Gen 2:7).

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus using his Divine power to name in relation to vocation and destiny.

God delegated to my parents, to your parents, the privilege of conferring a name. God has known you by that name, and your divinely desired role for the cosmos, even before you were conceived. (Jer 1:5)

That is the name with which you will answer at death and at the end of time to the question:

'My beloved [name],  
did you fulfil your role and vocation as an earth creature to garden the earth (Gen 2:15),

to act as 'salt of the earth', i.e. to make it life-giving over a long period of time,  
and to act as 'the light of the cosmos', i.e. to enable the cosmos, through your mind and heart, to love and praise its Creator. (Mat 5:13-16)?'

How will you answer?

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B  
**1st Reading:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 7:29-31  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20

**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, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Selene Maree Stanholm-Atkins and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Recently Deceased:** Loyola Bawden, Matthew Spiteri, Wanda Jobstreibitzer. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Wedding:** Chu San Ho and Thi Kim Xuan Nguyen will be married at Branxton on Saturday 20 January 2024. **What God has joined let no man 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

<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	

## Schools in our Parishes

<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 21 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		J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan.
<b>Commentator</b>		K Ingold	G Cattermole		<b>SCAE LEADER</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	C Harvey C Szumilas	L Gorczyca	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Prayers</b>		K Ingold	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas D Thomas	C Anderson L Harrison	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>15 January</b>	<b>16 January</b>	<b>17 January</b> <i>St Anthony</i>	<b>18 January</b>	<b>19 January</b>	<b>20 January</b> <i>St Fabian St Sebastian</i>	<b>21 January</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR B
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<b>NO MASS</b>  <u>11.00am</u> <b>Funeral 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>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>  <u>11.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>Mercy Home</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>SCAE</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>Mass</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.

## **2024 Parish Fiesta**



## **PARISH FIESTA 2024 IN HONOUR OF SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

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

Followed by lunch and  
celebrations at Singleton  
Civic Centre.

**PLEASE JOIN US**

## **Do you have the Mass App?**

Whether you're at home or travelling, the Diocese's mobile app shows you Churches and Mass times near you. If you're looking to attend Christmas Mass in your Parish, or you're just not sure about upcoming Mass times near you, simply searching in the app by your location allows you to find service times in your area. You can download the app for free from the **Apple App Store** and **Google Play Store**. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

## **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.

## **Cemetery Thanks**

A very special thank you to those who have worked hard to ensure the cemeteries in Singleton and Branxton are tidy for visitors at this special time of year.

Special thanks in Singleton to Terry Dunn, Adrian Klasen, Ron Nowland, Albert Pagala, Kerry Dries and Julies Dries.

## **2024 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>

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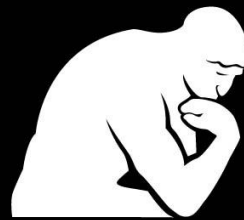
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## **Voice of the Spirit**

To access the latest Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter, visit: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf)

There are also two events to Save the Date for. CCR Leadership Day – Saturday 3 February 2024 and CCR NSW Conference – 7 to 8 September 2024.



# Have YOU thought? Why disciples?

*Why did Jesus call a group of people to follow him closely and share in his ministry? Certainly, it was not uncommon at the time that a charismatic leader might attract a group of followers and 'hangers-on' but Jesus appears to have deliberately called some people to travel with him and share in what he was about. So much of what Jesus spoke about was living in right relationships: with God; and with one another. Rather than simply being a 'back-up group' for Jesus, the disciples provided a lived example of trying to live in right relationships. They didn't always get it right, but they were on the way.*



# Here is the Lamb of God

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. In Jesus' time, lambs were often used as sacrifices to please God. Jesus would eventually sacrifice his life for us. What are some sacrifices you can make that could help others?






## Following Jesus

Following the example of Jesus' life isn't always easy. For each of the following things that Jesus asks us to do, write down why you find it either easy or difficult to do.

Love your enemies

Be a peace maker

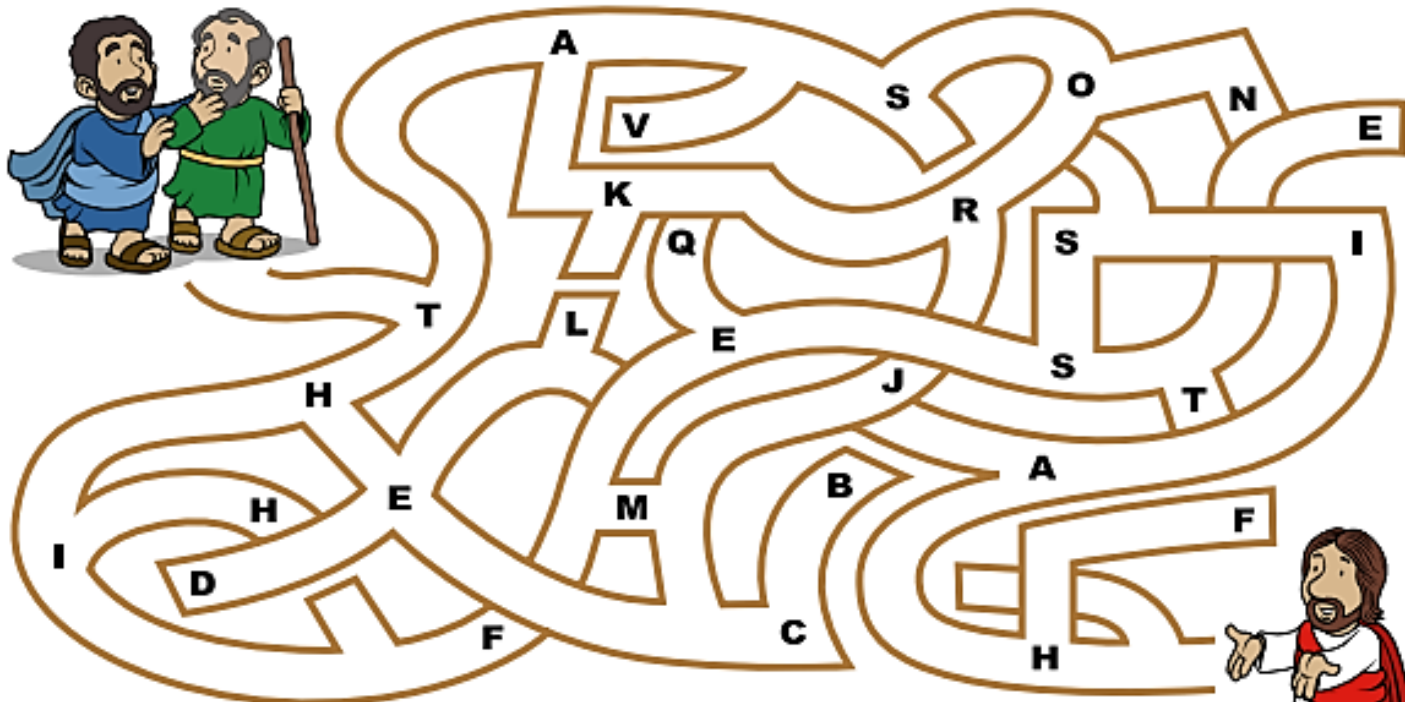
Help people in need

Forgive those who do wrong by you

Be kind to others

Lead others to Christ

As Andrew leads Simon to Jesus, enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal who they find.



□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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