



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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

28 January 2024

First Reading Dt 18:15-20
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

*(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32-35
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I would like to see you free from all worry.
An unmarried man can devote himself to
the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about
is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has
to bother about the world's affairs and
devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is
torn two ways. In the same way an

unmarried woman, like a young girl, can
devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she
need worry about is being holy in body and
spirit. The married woman, on the other
hand, has to worry about the world's affairs
and devote herself to pleasing her
husband. I say this only to help you, not to
put a halter round your necks, but simply
to make sure that everything is as it should
be, and that you give your undivided
attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
**A people in darkness have seen a great
light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in
death.**
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:21-28
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

Jesus and his followers went as far as
Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath
came Jesus went to the synagogue and
began to teach. And his teaching made a
deep impression on them because, unlike
the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a
man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it
shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus
of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are: the Holy One of God.'
But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out
of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the
man into convulsions and with a loud cry
went out of him. The people were so
astonished that they started asking each
other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching
that is new' they said 'and with authority
behind it: he gives orders even to unclean
spirits and they obey him.' And his
reputation rapidly spread everywhere,
through all the surrounding Galilean
countryside.

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



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek
word referring to something broken in two,
shattered. Looking at persons and
societies torn apart, it is obvious that the
diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it
harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy
Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could
make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates
that this fear was realised in the coming on
to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer
was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in
action, healing a man torn apart by a
diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to
join in his healing mission to overcome
whatever it is which tears people apart,
whether at the individual, community or
global levels. We do so in the confidence of
His Resurrection which overcame the
diabolical tearing apart of His body and
soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit
ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so
putting the fear of God into the devil!

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
1st Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

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: Bellamy Widz (Greta). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Anniversaries: Kathleen Thomas. **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

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	
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
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	
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	

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 4 FEBRUARY 2024

	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		J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
Readers	H Hartcher C Szumilas	SCAE LEADER REQ A Humphreys	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	L Waters family	J Nightingale N Ernst	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
29 January	30 January	31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	1 February	2 February <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	3 February <i>St Blaise</i> <i>St Ansgar</i>	4 February <i>Word of God Sunday</i> <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, YEAR B</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Adoration and Benediction <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</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> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> SCAE <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 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 this 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 Singleton 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.

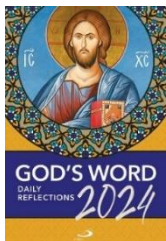
World Day of Prayer 2024

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, meetings are being held for Singleton at the Parish Office at 10am, Tuesday 30 January and Branxton in St Brigid's Church at 11.30am, Thursday 1 February.

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.

St Patrick's Parish First Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 3 February 2024 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the souls of **Victoria Diputado** and all those who have anniversaries in January and February.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 14 February 2024 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Crescent Singleton Heights. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

Parish Bereavement Teams – Expression of Interests

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

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 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>

Support Funding for Palliative Care

Following government cuts to funding for Palliative Care and increases to funding for Voluntary Assisted Dying (euthanasia), The Hon. Susan Carter (Member of the Legislative Council) has created a petition to put pressure on government to better support and fund palliative care. Bishop Michael has endorsed this petition and the full letter from the Hon. Susan Carter can be found on the church noticeboard. Please consider signing the petition via the following link https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=TCDPKH-n_irjDpWLSkyoA

Bible in a Year

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st.

www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear



The Way of Mercy

THE TRADITION OF MERCY DUBLIN TO AUSTRALIA: ENNIS TO SINGLETON 1875 AND OUR MERCY FOUNDATIONS

Embark on a soulful 15-day Irish spiritual journey, drawing inspiration from Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Traverse Dublin's sacred sites and the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry, immersing yourself in Ireland's rich religious legacy. Marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher, pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Knock. This pilgrimage covers seven captivating cities of Ireland, instrumental in building the foundations of our Christian faith.

DEPARTS THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 • 14 NIGHTS / 17 DAYS

Dublin (3 Nights) / Wicklow (1) / Cork (2) / Tralee (3) / Galway (1) / Knock (1) / Belfast (3)

Program Coordinator: Erin McCort | erin.mccort@mn.catholic.edu.au

pilgrim highlights

- + Explore Dublin's iconic landmarks, including Trinity College, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the Mercy Convent.
- + Delve into the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry.
- + Marvel at the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, a natural wonder overlooking the tempestuous Atlantic Ocean.
- + Spiritually encounter the Holy Shrine of Knock, a site of a miraculous apparition in 1879.
- + Cruise to enchanting Devenish Island, immersing yourself in its history dating back to the 6th century.

SYMBOLS

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on Superior Standard / 4-Star accommodation • 13 Dinners / 14 Full Breakfasts

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees.

OTHER: Fully Escorted by Tour Coordinator • Porterage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet.

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV2454
STARTS	Thurs 26 September 2024
FINISHES	Sat 12 October 2024
AIR & LAND COST	AUD \$11840 (twin share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2190 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$260 per person

** Costs have been based on prices as at December 2023 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, tax increases or minimum group size (35) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details. All details of sightseeing listed and order of daily arrangements must remain subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances, which may arise, or at the discretion of the pilgrimage leadership. This overview is based on the standard pilgrimage departure and return dates. Please refer to your personal flight itinerary for more specific details or amendments pertaining to your travel.*

In 2024, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese will be journeying to Ireland to explore "The Way of Mercy".

Embark on a soulful 15-day Irish spiritual journey, drawing inspiration from Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Traverse Dublin's sacred sites and the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry, immersing yourself in Ireland's rich religious legacy. Marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher, pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Knock. This pilgrimage covers seven captivating cities of Ireland, instrumental in building the foundations of our Christian faith.

As we journey together, we will take time to pray, reflect and care for one another. The spirit of Mercy, compassion, respect, justice, reconciliation, hospitality service and courage will be reflected upon each day in our journeying together.

Dates: **Thursday 26 September – Saturday 12 October 2024**

Contact: **Erin McCort (Pilgrimage Coordinator)**
erin.mccort@mn.catholic.edu.au

Contact the Parish Office for an Expression of Interest form which can be emailed directly to Erin by **Monday 11 March 2024**. Full details in the booklet on church noticeboards.