



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

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

**Project Compassion Sunday**

**11 February 2024**

**First Reading** **Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**  
A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v. 7**

*(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,  
and you fill me with the joy of  
salvation.*

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. *(R.)*

But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. *(R.)*

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. *(R.)*

**Second Reading** **1 Cor 10:31-11:1**  
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink,  
whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of  
God. Never do anything offensive to  
anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the  
Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to  
everyone at all times, not anxious for my  
own advantage but for the advantage of  
everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation** **Luke 7:16**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**A great prophet has appeared among us;**  
**God has visited his people.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mark 1:40-45**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his  
knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure  
me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched  
out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I  
want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the  
leprosy left him at once and he was cured.  
Jesus immediately sent him away and  
sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing  
to anyone, but go and show yourself to the  
priest, and make the offering for your  
healing prescribed by Moses as evidence  
of your recovery.' The man went away, but  
then started talking about it freely and  
telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus  
could no longer go openly into any town,  
but had to stay outside in places where  
nobody lived. Even so, people from all  
around would come to him.

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



**REFLECTION**  
**BY NICK BRODIE**

'He was like a deadman walking', quipped  
Pope Francis. Not only did the leper in  
today's Gospel have a terrible disease, but  
he was excluded from wider society and  
'marginalised by the civil and religious  
community'. The physical disease brought  
with it painful social consequences.

There was a sense at the time that such  
leprosy was punishment for sin; that  
somehow the lepers deserved what they  
were getting. But Jesus saw past these  
misunderstandings. He saw the person in  
front of him, responded to their cry, and felt  
compassion for them. 'Of course I want  
to!', Jesus says.

Tellingly, Pope Francis points out, Jesus  
'does not stand at a safe distance and  
does not act by delegating, but places  
Himself in direct contact.' Like Jesus,  
therefore, we should be close to those in  
need. We should make contact with them.  
We should respond to them.

Jesus' response, the Pope points out, is  
thus essentially about compassion and  
contact. Firstly, it is important to feel the  
situations faced by other people. To  
empathise, sympathise, and understand  
what they might be feeling. Secondly, it is  
necessary to reach out and remove the  
stigma; to respond in some physical,  
practical way to the situation before us.  
Even Jesus did not cure social diseases by  
good intentions alone.

© Nick Brodie.

**Nick Brodie** is an Australian historian and writer who  
is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane  
Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian  
National University, Flinders University, and the  
University of Tasmania, he is the author of several  
books on Australian history and numerous essays on  
historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he  
was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best  
article in the Journal of Religious History. He is  
currently studying Theology.

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

### **Leprosy**

*To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
First Sunday of Lent, Year B  
**1st Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

**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, Noel House, 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.**

**Recently Deceased:** Daphne Way and Anthony Kallut. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Anniversaries:** Anne Archinal, Brian Dagg, Victoria Diputado, Joyce Ralston, Harold Stocks, Cecil Thomas, Daisy Tierney, Francis Trunk. **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 18 FEBRUARY 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	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	<b>SCAE LEADER REQ</b>			
<b>Readers</b>	C Harvey C Szumilas	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's	
<b>Offertory</b>	C & A Trunk	C Anderson L Harrison	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	St Catherine's	
<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>12 February</b>	<b>13 February</b>	<b>14 February</b> <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	<b>15 February</b>	<b>16 February</b>	<b>17 February</b> <i>The Seven Holy Founders of the Service Order</i>	<b>18 February</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B</b>
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN PM</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton  <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> Mercy Home	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> <b>SCAE</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<b>NO MASS</b>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta

**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.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Mass will be said for Ash Wednesday, 14 February 2024, at 9.20am in St Patrick's Singleton and at 6.00pm in St Brigid's Branxton. *Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence for Catholics and marks the commencement of the 40 days of Lent which end at sundown on Holy Thursday.*

## **Singleton Senior Singles Lunch**

The Senior Singles group will meet for lunch at the Albion Hotel Restaurant on Tuesday 13 February at 12pm. Any seniors who are on their own are invited to join them for conversation over a meal.

## **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.

## **St Brigid's Cemetery Working Bee**

Helpers are needed to spread topsoil in the St Brigid's Cemetery on Tuesday 13 February from 7.30am. For more information, please speak to John Partridge. Money for these works was received via a Heritage Grant from Cessnock City Council.

## **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.

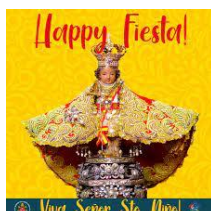
## **World Day of Prayer 2024**

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. Attendees are asked to bring a plate.

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. Please speak with Shanelle Thomas or Niamh Marzol in Singleton or Gail Jacobs in Branxton.

## **Fiesta Welcome!!**

Welcome to all who are attending St Patrick's Church this Sunday for the Parish Fiesta in Honour of Señor Santo Niño de Cebú. Have a wonderful celebration!



## Why We Do

### THE THINGS WE DO

### Why ashes?

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and symbolise the spirit of penance that marks the Lenten season. Ashes were commonly used in ancient religions (including Judaism) as an expression of sorrow and humiliation. In the early Church, Jewish converts introduced this practice into the Christian liturgy. By being marked with ashes, a Catholic today is recognised by the community gathered as one who has chosen to repent of sin and believe in the Good News. A sign to be worn with conviction!

## **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. Copies of the Reflection booklet are available at each church. If you have missed getting a copy, please contact the Parish Office.

## **Understanding the Beatitudes**

One of the most striking examples of Jesus' teaching is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. The Beatitudes are the foundation on which that sermon is built. They are also one of the most beautiful statements of Christian ethics. Yet at the same time, they are also some of the trickiest verses in the Bible to interpret. In this subject, we'll tackle the meaning of the blessings by putting them into the context of the gospels, the Hebrew Bible, and wider Jewish literature, like the Dead Sea Scrolls. We'll think about what the Beatitudes contribute to our understanding of Jesus' teaching and mission. And finally, we'll think about how the Beatitudes still matter today. Dates: Thursdays 7 & 14 March (4.00pm-5.30pm) in the Library in Diocesan Resource Centre.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/cGXZ545eRX>

## **aMeN CaMiNo is on again!**

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard. We will also be holding a weekend experience. It will be held on 6-10 July, 3-7 August and 7-8 September. See the noticeboard for more information.

## **Way of the Cross**

Our Diocese is blessed with rich diversity. This year's Ecumenical Way of the Cross, held on the 5th Sunday of Lent, invites us into a multicultural journey of remembrance. As we relive the story of Jesus' Passion, we recall the stories that have brought us together. This event is a celebrated gathering of our wider community and one not to be missed and will be held on Sunday 17 March, 3pm (you are invited to gather from 2pm) at St Joseph's Toronto Church, 140 Wangi Road, Toronto.



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



Hope Tree  
Group

## Project 14: Martha's Piggery

### PROJECT UPDATE



The pigs have arrived at Martha's new piggery and are settling in well.

## 2023 Christmas Appeal Update

Sr Dhanya has used the 2023 Christmas Appeal funds to purchase clothes, mattresses, uniforms, a walker and wheelchairs for her home care clients.



Hope Tree  
Group