



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

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

3 March 2024

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

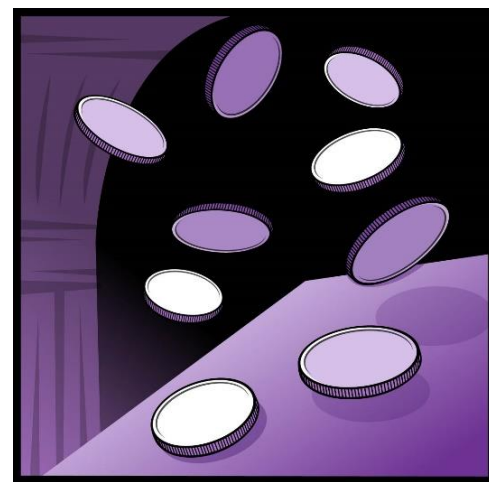
Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus

rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Where does God really dwell?

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterise a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'.

By the time Jesus came on the scene, the Temple in Jerusalem was no longer a fit dwelling place for a God who desires to free people from oppression and exploitation. To the contrary, Jesus saw the Temple ideology as placing undue burdens and shackles on people.

His anger at this erupted in dramatic street theatre. His overturning of the tables of the money-changers signalled the overturning of the Temple system.

What Our Lord revealed to uncomprehending authorities was that His body was the true sanctuary. The body of Jesus of Nazareth is the dwelling place of God, the habitation of the Lord God who liberates people. In short, God's sanctuary is not a place, but a person.

We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B 1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: John 3:14-21
MYSTERY OF FAITH Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Prayer Requests

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

Anniversaries: Ted Trunk, Patricia Lynch. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Annalee Dooley, Henry Cooper and Jack Cooper (Branxton). Evelyn Bates, Finn Habener and Ihaia Kereama (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

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	Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson	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 10 MARCH 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	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig (Need to count Wednesday)
Commentator		M Ingold			SCAE LEADER REQD	
Readers	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	M Thomas D Thomas	D Clarke J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4 March <i>St Casimir</i>	5 March	6 March	7 March <i>Sts Perpetua & Felicity</i>	8 March <i>St John of God</i>	9 March <i>St Frances of Rome</i>	10 March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <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> LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> SCAE <i>St Patrick's Singleton</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> 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.

2024 Sacramental Program

This year's Sacramental Program will commence in Singleton Parish this Sunday with the children attending a formation session at 5pm and then pledging their Commitment to the program at 6pm Mass.

The Branxton Parish program will commence next Sunday with participants attending the commitment mass at 8.15am in Greta and then their formation session at 9am.

Lenten Reflection – Transformation through Revelation

A reflection group will be gathering on Wednesdays after Mass in Singleton. The Lenten Reflection books 'Transformation through Revelation' found at the back of the church will be used. If you need a copy, please contact the Parish Office.

Way of the Cross

You are invited to stay after Mass to pray the Stations of the Cross in Greta Tuesday mornings, Branxton Thursday mornings, and Singleton on Friday mornings.

Senior Singles Group Lunch

The Senior Singles will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 12 March at 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. New members always welcome to come along.

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 on Friday 15 March. Lunch will be from 12pm and if you would like to attend, please confirm with Mercia.

Review of Confirmation Guidance and Procedures

All parishioners, parents and sponsors, ministers and anyone else involved in the preparation and celebration of Confirmation over recent years, is invited to participate in our review process. Please read the article by clicking this link where everything is explained and the Review Document is available <https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/2024/57885-liturgy-matters-it-s-time-christian-initiation-and-confirmation-review/>. Closing date for the review is 17 March 2024.

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.

To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope

The Diocese is holding workshops with Rev. Fr Kevin McGovern, a Christian ethicist and former director of Melbourne's Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics. The workshop will focus on accompanying those whom we care for that may be critically ill or at a terminal phase of their life. On Wednesday 20 March, 2pm -4pm and 6:30pm - 8:30pm Input, discussion and face-to-face workshops will be held. These are suitable for staff and volunteers in parishes and staff from Catholic health and aged care providers. Register via Eventbrite: <https://CDMN-witness.eventbrite.com.au> or phone (02) 4979-1329.

Chrism Mass

Each year during Holy Week all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy for the Chrism Mass. Here we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that will be used for ministry during the year. Join the Diocesan community on Tuesday 26 March from 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. All are welcome, read more about it: <https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/2024/57932-liturgy-matters-come-on-down-to-the-chrism-mass/>

Mission: Transform Lives – Theirs and Yours

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. To learn more, join our Mission Webinar 5 March 2024, 6- 6:30pm. Learn Even More: Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together. Contact: 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au



Third Sunday of Lent 2 & 3 March



Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for **Leaia** and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

A rigorous safeguarding audit of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has assessed a 98 per cent compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) according to the audit report published by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) today.

Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle, the Most Reverend Michael Kennedy asked that the audit be particularly rigorous. ACSL partnered with Prolegis Lawyers, an independent legal firm, in the audit. Thirty-four per cent of the Diocese's parishes were visited as were three schools and the Diocese's head offices. Over 100 people were also interviewed.

The ACSL-Prolegis audit of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle found that 96 (98 per cent) out of the 98 relevant indicators were 'Developed and Embedded' or 'Developed'.

The auditors made seven recommendations to improve safeguarding practices within the Diocese. These recommendations were accepted in full by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and work has already commenced on implementing them. Audit recommendations are classified according to priority and urgency for remediation. There are no Priority 1 (high priority) recommendations for the Diocese.

ACSL Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ursula Stephens, said that the audit demonstrated that the Diocese has comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures. She acknowledged the efforts of the Diocesan safeguarding personnel to ensure that policies were being met in practice.

"Without doubt, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle demonstrates it is committed to addressing the Church's sad history in this area. Across the Diocese and in every Ministry, strong safeguarding practices are evident. Our recommendations for improvement reflect the contemporary aspects of safeguarding regulation, and, given the far-reaching commitment to safeguarding demonstrated, I expect these protocols will soon be addressed," said Dr Stephens.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle comprises 38 parishes in the Hunter-Manning region with 66 active or retired clergy, over 5,500 paid staff operating from more than 100 locations and more than 5,000 volunteers undertaking a variety of ministries within the Diocese. The Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle is Michael Kennedy, installed on 17 March 2023.

Bishop Kennedy said that he was particularly pleased with the auditors' summary judgement that said that "the Diocese is successfully implementing and embedding a culture of safeguarding throughout its organisation."

Bishop Kennedy also said "There is more to do. As Bishop, I assure you that over the coming years the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will maintain its current momentum and will continue to refine and improve our safeguarding knowledge and practices, so that the safeguarding of each child and every vulnerable person is a wholly integrated and intrinsic part of everything that we do in our Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle."

The NCSS, based on recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and aligned with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, provide the framework for Catholic Church entities to build child-safe cultures and to advance the safety and dignity of children and vulnerable people across the Catholic Church in Australia.

Copies of the results overview will be available at Mass this weekend and you can read the full audit by using this link to the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd website: <https://www.acsltd.org.au/about-us/publications-and-reports/>

