



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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year B

24 March 2024



First Reading **Is 50:4-7**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

**(R.) My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

Second Reading **Phil 2:6-11**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Phillipians.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Phil 2:8-9**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to
death dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and gave
him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel **Mk 14:1 - 15:47**
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. (SHORTER FORM Mk 15:1-39)

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply. At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder,

'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: ** See Bulletin Notices Section
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year B 1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43 2nd Reading: Colossians 2:6-11 Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47
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: Michael Markham. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Ken Hawkins (Funeral Tuesday 26/3/24 at 11am St Patrick's). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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 31 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		J Dries		J Woolley
Commentator		L Harrison				
Readers	EASTER VOLUNTEERS	A Humphreys		EASTER VOLUNTEERS		
Prayers		L Harrison		EASTER VOLUNTEER		
Offertory	EASTER VOLUNTEERS	C Miller N Ernst		EASTER VOLUNTEER		
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
25 March <i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	26 March <i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	27 March <i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	28 March <i>Thursday of Holy Week</i>	29 March <i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</i>	30 March <i>Holy Saturday Easter Vigil</i>	31 March EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	NO MASS Singleton 7.00pm Chrism Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St Patrick's Singleton	11.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Passion St Patrick's Singleton	7.45pm Easter Vigil Mass St Patrick's Singleton	10.00m Easter Sunday Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS Greta		6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St Brigid's Branxton	10.00am Stations of the Cross St Brigid's Branxton 3.00pm Passion St Catherine's Greta	7.45pm Easter Vigil Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Easter Sunday Mass 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 or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

Entrance Antiphon – Palm Sunday

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

Donations for Easter Decorations

If you would like to make a donation towards the altar decorations in Singleton for Easter, please see Frieda King.

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.

Legion of Mary - Acies

The Legion of Mary invite you to join them for Acies on Sunday 24 March 2024 at 2pm in St Joseph's Church, East Maitland. The service will be followed by afternoon tea in the Therry Centre. *Acies is the renewal of the Legion's act of consecration. Acies is Latin for "a standing army," and the Legion professes their allegiance to Mary and Jesus.*

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/>

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time

With the end of Daylight Savings, Singleton Parish evening Masses will change to **5pm** from **Tuesday 9 April 2024**. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening and Glendonbrook masses.

Branxton Vigil Mass will remain at 6pm.



2024 School Enrolments Now Open

If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2025, you should attend one of our open days. Visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/ for more information.

2024 Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, March 29th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing,

Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million [\$1.4 million (2022), \$1,126,098 (2021), \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

Sing to the Lord – Musicians and Singers Formation

Sing to the Lord is a cantor training and formation opportunity for all members of the faithful. We are looking for everyone who loves to sing and would like to have a go. To find out more and express Interest use the QR Code or go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/7CGYdeXGZw>



Women of the Well: Weekend Retreat

Rest, reflect, release and reconnect at the next Women of the Well Weekend Retreat. It starts on Friday 19 April to Sunday 21 April and will be hosted at St Joseph's, Kincumber. Cost is \$125. For more information or to register, visit www.womenofthewell.com.au/events/gatherings-at-the-well

Fishing Weekend: God for Blokes

If you're looking for an opportunity to think about God, hear from other men, do some fishing, and relax you should attend the God for Blokes Fishing Weekend from 3 to 5 May. You will travel from Newcastle to Forster, food and accommodation are included in the cost. For more information or to book, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1092382> or call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394.

Save the Date: Official Opening of Diocesan Library

Join us for the official opening of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Library on Friday 31 May. The library stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Christian Library opened in 1957. This celebration will be followed by a reimagined TWEC dinner which will acknowledge the legacy of Sisters of St Joseph and explore our future journey. More details will be shared soon.

The Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor St, Newcastle West on Mondays and Fridays 10am-6pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm. On Friday 5 April, Storytime will be held from 10.15am-11am and Formation Friday (Easter) from 1-2.30pm.

EASTER TRIDUUM

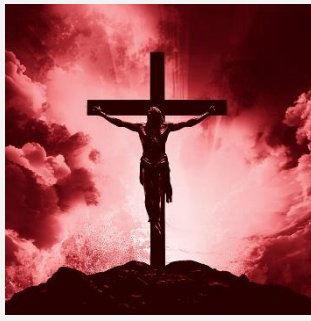


Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thurs 28 March

Singleton 6.30pm

Branxton 6.30pm



Good Friday

Fri 29 March

Stations of the Cross

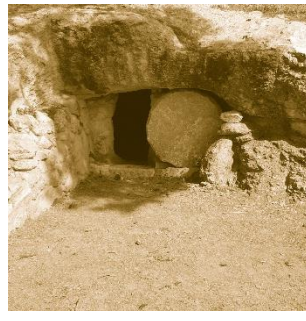
Branxton 10.00am

Singleton 11.00am

Passion of the Lord

Singleton 3.00pm

Greta 3.00pm



Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

Sat 30 March

Singleton 7.45pm

Branxton 7.45pm



Easter Sunday

Sun 31 March

Greta 8.15am

Singleton 10.00am

"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence."

Pope Francis




Why We Do

THE THINGS WE DO

Why do we hold palms on Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday leading into Holy Week, we commemorate the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The gospels that describe this event speak of large crowds laying palm branches on the road before Jesus and proclaiming him as king. Here is a man with charisma, with a stirring message! And yet, before the week is out he has been betrayed into the hands of his enemies and crucified. Palm Sunday (also called Passion Sunday) highlights the paradox of Christ's kingship. Our palms represent his victory; but a victory that only comes through suffering and self-sacrifice.




Why We Do

THE THINGS WE DO

Why do we have stations of the cross?

Have you ever made a journey retracing the steps of an ancestor? In the early Church a tradition developed whereby Christians would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, retracing the journey that Jesus took to the Cross. Visual representations depicting the Passion of Jesus were erected along the way. In memory of this sacred path, the stations were popularised in art and as a devotional practice, encouraged especially by the Franciscans. There are fourteen stations in our modern day devotion whereby people move from station to station, reflecting upon the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

PALM SUNDAY

Hosanna to the King