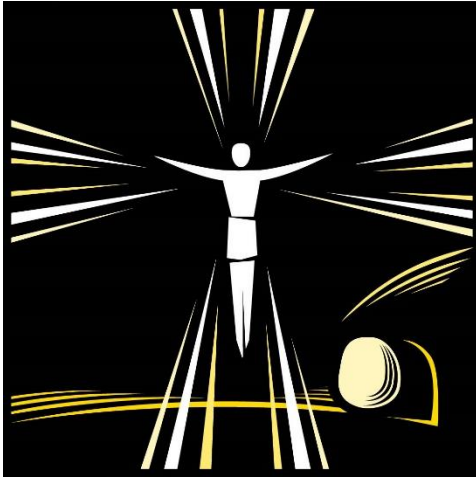


The Catholic Parishes of Branxton & Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Year B

30 March 2024



First Reading **Genesis 1:1-22:2**
A reading from the book of Genesis.

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was good.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35. R. see v.30

*(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.*

Third Reading **Exodus 14:15-15:1**
A reading from the book of Exodus.

Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground..

Responsorial Psalm
Exodus 15:1-6. 17-18. R. v.1

*(R.) Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.*

Fifth Reading **Isaiah 55:1-11**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant..

Responsorial Psalm **Isaiah 12:2-6 R. v.3**

(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

(Branxton only)
Seventh Reading **Ezekiel 36:16-28**
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

I shall pour clean water over you and I shall give you a new heart.

(Branxton only)
Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 41:3. 5; 42:3. 4 R. Ps 41:2

*(R.) Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.*

Epistle **Romans 6:3-11**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

(R.) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel **Mark 16:1-7**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

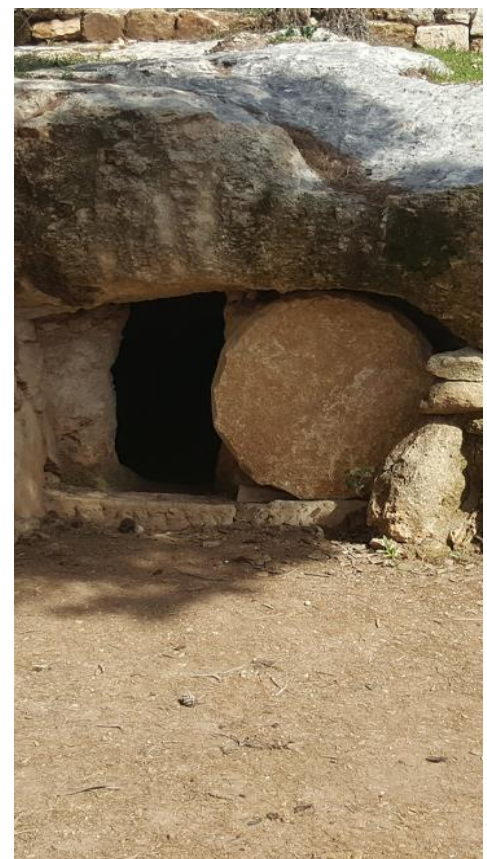
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT

On Holy Thursday we saw that God is the one who passes over; on Good Friday we recognised that Jesus is our real Passover. Today we contemplate our own passing over. Holy Saturday is a time of liminality; an in-between time. We are no longer in one place, but we have not yet arrived at the other. We are in the crossing. We are moving from darkness into light, from death to life, and we do this by passing through the waters of baptism.

In the dark of the night, we are called to follow God into the unknown. If we can do this, if we can risk all and leave behind the life to which we have grown accustomed, we will be able to survive in this period of liminality. The vigil readings end with a promise of regeneration. The waters that at first threatened us, can rejuvenate us. We now stand at the threshold of a new creation. The period of liminality is over. Our next step is into the waters of baptism, there to be recreated, to be born anew, to die and to rise in Christ.

Through baptism we enter into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Like those who heard the proclamation of the women, we are called to faith through the words of others. When we respond, our passing over will be complete and we will be embraced by Christ our True Passover.



<p>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</p> <p>COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Requests</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Frank McAlister, Sr Mary Markham, Arlene Thomas. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.</i></p>
<p>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B 1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35 2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6 Gospel: John 20:19-31</p>	
<p>MYSTERY OF FAITH Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.</p>	

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 7 APRIL 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
Commentator		L Gorczyca			SCAE LEADER REQD	
Readers	C Zaragoza M Thomas	L Harrison	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	J Nightingale C Ernst	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
1 April <i>Monday within the Octave of Easter</i>	2 April <i>Tuesday within the Octave of Easter</i>	3 April <i>Wednesday within the Octave of Easter</i>	4 April <i>Thursday within the Octave of Easter</i>	5 April <i>Friday within the Octave of Easter</i>	6 April <i>Saturday within the Octave of Easter</i>	7 April 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1 st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>1.00pm</u> Adoration <u>6.00pm</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

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.



Divine Mercy Sunday Adoration

Divine Mercy Sunday on 7 April 2024, focuses on the gift of mercy and love through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. You are invited to Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Singleton from 1-4.30pm.

St Patrick's Parish Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on **Saturday 6 April 2024 at 9.20am**. We will be offering Mass for the souls of

- ✠ Cheryl Farnant
- ✠ Jennifer Partridge
- ✠ Marie Clarke
- ✠ Elizabeth Alexander

and all those who have anniversaries April.

You are also invited to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday.

St Brigid's Caritas

"The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope of eternal life" We wish you a peaceful, safe and Holy Easter. The next St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon is **Friday 19 April 12.00 noon** at the Miller Park Hotel. All welcome!

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.

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.

Sing to the Lord – Musicians and Singers Formation

Do you love to sing? Do you like to belt it out, or to sing soulfully around the house, in the shower, in the car hooping around town or on long trips? Do you like to menace your family and friends with your favourite songs? Do you sing and play guitar or piano while your toddlers jump around dancing wildly? If so, 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>

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.

Happy Easter from Caritas Australia

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal.

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.

Please start returning your Project Compassion boxes at Mass so the funds can be sent to Caritas Australia.

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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.

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

Easter Message from Bishop Michael Kennedy

The love of God calls for a response from each of us,
and the only adequate response to love is love;
a love that is true and faithful; a love that is patient and
kind; a love that generates peace and joy;
a love that binds people together.

I wish you, your family, and loved ones a truly Happy Easter.



 Bishop Michael Kennedy
BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

[CLICK HERE FOR MY EASTER VIDEO MESSAGE](#)

Watch Bishop Michael's Easter Video Message using this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ6gB20YsOA>

HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

In preparation for the jubilee year 2025, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a **Year of Prayer**. The Pope wrote: *“From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great ‘symphony’ of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him.”*

As we celebrate Easter in this Year of Prayer, let us reflect on the profound significance of this sacred season. Easter reminds us of the power of hope, renewal, and transformation. Easter also serves as a reminder of the power of prayer in our lives. It is a time when we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing victory over darkness and the promise of eternal life.

In our prayers, let us seek guidance, strength, and compassion. May we be inspired to embody the teachings of love, forgiveness, and humility exemplified by Jesus. As we journey through this Year of Prayer, let us deepen our connection with the divine and with one another.

As we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus, let us remember the power of prayer to transform lives and bring healing and reconciliation. May our prayers during Easter deepen our faith, inspire our actions, and lead us ever closer to God's abundant love and mercy.

As we gather with loved ones to celebrate Easter, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our spirits be uplifted by the joy of the resurrection. Let us embrace this opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal, guided by the power of prayer.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter filled with peace, joy, and the abundant blessings of the Risen Lord.

Fr Thomas Chirackal