

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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year B

31 March 2024

First Reading Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:1-4
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

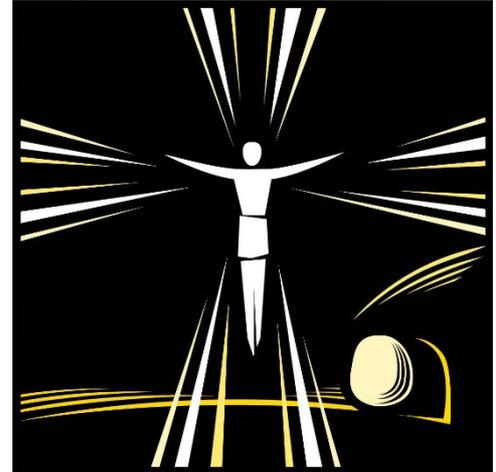
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Nick Brodie

Reflecting on Easter, Pope Francis highlights the importance of 'walking away from the tomb.' Once found, faith must be lived.

As Saint Peter said, 'we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people.' Easter is, in a sense, the starting point of our Christian responsibilities.

Living the Easter mystery means becoming a joyful Easter people.

We must, therefore, be open to action and change. We cannot become stuck in our ways, crippled by doubt, despair or habit. As Pope Francis says, Easter shows us that 'it is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures.'

The annual celebration of Easter reminds us that what we celebrate is present here and now. Ours is a living faith. As the Pope adds, 'faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now.' Easter is a celebration of the mystery that Jesus is present. He is here, in both the need of the world and through the actions of His followers.

So, having celebrated the mystery, we are sent forth to live it. 'Having made himself present in the heart of our world,' the Pope points out, Jesus 'invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life.'

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<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>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Prayer Requests</h2> <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		
8.00am SCAE St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 1 st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 1.00pm Adoration 6.00pm SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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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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