



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

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

Divine Mercy Sunday

7 April 2024

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord 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.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,

but not doomed to die. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter St John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water

and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE**

'In reality,' Pope Francis points out, 'Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact,' the Pope adds, 'he represents all of us a little bit.'

But Thomas does not only represent us with his explicitly articulated doubt. Rather, Thomas highlights our tendency to walk away. Thomas had absented himself from the community. Returning, he seems a touch transactional: Show me the proof, then I'll commit!

As Pope Francis highlights, Jesus answers Thomas' doubt 'in front of everyone, in the community.' It was, the Pope suggests, as if Jesus was telling Thomas that 'if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in our community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them.' Be open to encounter, not closed to possibilities.

This, evidently, is a lesson for us too. Every Christian generation is called to find the Risen Christ together. We belong with each other, with Christ forming a mystical unity out of our diversity.

In this, the story of Thomas has another lesson for the Church. We Christians are called to be a welcoming people. 'Let us ask ourselves,' the Pope suggests, 'if in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone.'

After all, despite his attitude Thomas was still included and welcomed by the community whose testimony he doubted. Even more pointedly, Our Lord opens his exchange with the doubter with some clearly welcoming words: 'Peace be with you.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Third Sunday of Easter, B 1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5 Gospel: Luke 24:35-48
MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Mary Bailey, Eunice Benn, 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: Jeanette Hebbe, Neville Thrift. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Rita Carrall (sister of Linus Holz). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Oliver & Sophia Forbes, Evie Hartcher (Branxton). Elizabeth Whitaker and Sayla Hall (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 14 APRIL 2024

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	
Commentator		M Ingold			E Janssen	
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	SCAE LEADER REQD L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	L Waters family	C Miller A Humphreys	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		C Miller				

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
8 April <i>THE ANUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	9 April	10 April	11 April <i>St Stanislaus</i>	12 April	13 April <i>St Martin I</i>	14 April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass 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> SCAE 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 at 3am Sunday 7 April, 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 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 this Sunday 7 April 2024, Fr Thomas will be available for Reconciliation from 1.30-2.00pm.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant.

St Patrick's Women's Guild AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights (enter via Willcox Ave). New members most welcome!

St Brigid's Caritas

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.

Diocesan Cursillo - Save the Date

Come journey with us! A beautiful weekend of renewal prepared by the Diocesan Cursillo team, laypersons, religious and priests. The weekend is held at The Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Rd, Rathmines from 7.30pm Thursday June 13 and concludes with Mass on Sunday afternoon June 16. The cost is \$360 which includes 3 night's accommodation, all meals/morning and afternoon teas, lovingly prepared by our catering team and all resources you'll need on the weekend. Please contact the following for a registration form:
Mike and Linda Norris - mikelinda4@hotmail.com
Gerard McMillan - gjmcmillan51@gmail.com

Thank You from Caritas Australia

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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



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 hooning 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.

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>

Magdalene Award: Nominations Open From 8 April

The Magdalene Award recognises a woman living in, and committed to, the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene. For more information, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024



Hope Tree
Group

Project 16: Study Materials

PROJECT TARGET: \$2200 AUD



Project 16 for the Hope Tree Group is to provide financial assistance to purchase study materials for 500 underprivileged students in the state of Odisha, India. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India.

It was in Odisha that Australian Baptist missionary, Graham Steins, and his two sons were burnt alive while sleeping in their car in a remote village. On 24 December 2007, extremist Hindu organizations carried out a brutal assault on Christians during Christmas celebrations in the Kandhamal district of Odisha. The aftermath saw the destruction of 400 churches, 4,000 houses, and claimed 500 lives, with over 75,000 people displaced.

In 2018, Missionary Society of St Thomas (MST) Missionaries took up the challenge of evangelisation in this area and started working in over 90 remote villages in Kandhamal and few other nearby districts in the state.

The missionaries focused on educational and charitable initiatives together with establishing new Christian communities. The government schools are not running properly in these areas. In most of the primary schools only one or two teachers come few days each week and teach. Children go to school to have the midday meal supplied in the school. Missionaries established 42 tuition centres in these villages, offering remedial classes to over 1000 children.

Fr Joseph Cheriampanat, Episcopal Vicar for the Mission, requests ₹110000INR (\$2200AUD) to buy education materials like slates, pens, pencils and notebooks. In remote villages children still use slate and pencil for learning.



Odisha