

First Reading Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. 'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy
and hear me! *(R.)*

It is the Lord who grants favours to those
whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. *(R.)*

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
(R.)

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at
once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in
safety. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 John 2:1-5
A reading from the first letter St John.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has
said,
God's love comes to perfection in him

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you
speak.
Alleluia!

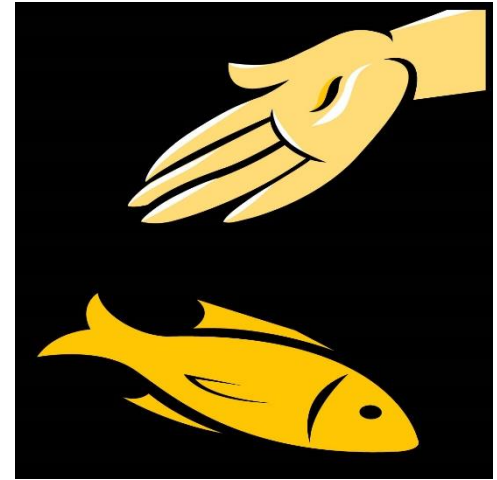
Gospel Luke 24:35-48
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The disciples told their story of what had
happened on the road and how they had
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when
Jesus himself stood among them and said
to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of
alarm and fright, they thought they were
seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you
so agitated, and why are these doubts
rising in your hearts? Look at my hands
and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and
see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh
and bones as you can see I have.' And as
he said this he showed them his hands and
feet. Their joy was so great that they could
not believe it, and they stood
dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have
you anything here to eat?' And they offered
him a piece of grilled fish, which he took
and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant
when I said, while I was still with you, that
everything written about me in the Law of
Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms,
has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their
minds to understand the scriptures, and
he said to them, 'So you see how it is
written that the Christ would suffer and on
the third day rise from the dead, and that,
in his name, repentance for the
forgiveness of sins would be preached to
all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses to this.'

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



REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE

Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis draws our attention to the three key verbs: look, touch, and eat.

'To look is not only to see,' the Pope points out, adding that 'it is more; it also involves intention, will.' When Jesus asks the disciples to look at his hands and feet, therefore, he is not only offering visual proof of identity. Rather, Jesus is inviting his disciples to look at his wounded limbs as 'a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others.' Jesus' wounds are still present for those with the courage to look at them.

Similarly, Jesus' invitation to the disciples to confirm his presence by touch has a teaching element too. 'By inviting the disciples to touch him,' the Pope suggests, 'Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance".' Having seen the wounds, we must be close to the wounded.

Finally, by eating with his disciples Jesus again did more than prove he was physically present at that specific moment. As the Pope points out, 'eating, when we do so together, among family or friends ... becomes an expression of love, and expression of communion.'

Once again, the Gospel suggests Jesus' action had a deeper meaning about Jesus' continuing presence among his followers. As St Augustine said of the Eucharist, we become what we consume, which means something truly amazing: The Risen Jesus still eats with us!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Easter, B 1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2 Gospel: John 10:11-18
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: Leo Bendeich, Eddie Goodwin, Nathan Grant, Mark Holz, John Thomas, Julia Tope. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Elizabeth Cameron (funeral Weds 17/4 11am Branxton). **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.

MASS OFFERINGS FOR ANNIVERSARIES: **If you write the date of your loved one's anniversary on the envelope, Fr Thomas will then be able to offer Mass on the day of the actual anniversary if he receives it ahead of time.**

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 21 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	G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca	SCAE LEADER REQD			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	L Harrison	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	St Catherine's College	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	St Catherine's College	
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	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 15 April	Tuesday 16 April	Wednesday 17 April	Thursday 18 April	Friday 19 April	Saturday 20 April	Sunday 21 April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	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> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Mercy Home	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO 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 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.

Mass Changes This Week

As Fr Thomas will be attending meetings in Newcastle on Thursday 18 April, morning Mass will not be said at Branxton and Singleton will have a lay-lead Liturgy of the Word.

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!

Happy School Holidays!

After a long and productive term 1, we wish the students and staff of our parish schools a happy holiday for the next two weeks! Safe travels if you are going away during this time.

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 or **Gerard McMillan** - gimcmillan51@gmail.com

Magdalene Award: Nominations Now Open

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 see Fr Thomas for nomination forms or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024

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

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 or the Parish Office ASAP 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>

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>

BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations Human Dignity

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us on Monday 20 and 27 May from 4pm-5.30pm at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

Official Opening of Diocesan Library

It is with much excitement that you are invited to join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library on Friday 31 May 2024. The Library, which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Catholic Library, offers our community access to resources relating to Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and more. Following on from the official opening, the celebration continues with the reimagining of the TWEC dinner with guest speaker Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission at the Diocese of Broken Bay. Kelly was amongst five Australians chosen personally by the Holy Father to participate in the General Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Library opening 4.30pm, free entry all welcome!
TWEC Dinner and speaker 5.30pm \$40pp, includes buffet meal and guest speaking presentation. Register via this link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597>



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.

Thank you to those who have already donated. Total raised so far is **\$385.00**



Odisha