



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

21 April 2024

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. *(R.)*

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. *(R.)*

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has
lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge
him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the
children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not
yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

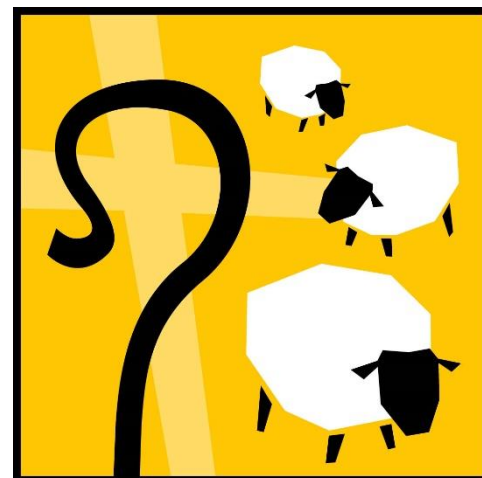
John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down
his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the
shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters
the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been
given by my Father.'

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



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious and loving God,
help the men and women of our
parish to hear the call to serve in
the diocese of Maitland
Newcastle.

Our needs are great and our
people thirst for your presence.
Open the hearts of many, raise
up faithful servants of the
Gospel, dedicated, holy priests,
sisters, brothers and deacons,
who will spend themselves for
your people and their needs.
Bless those who are serving now
with courage and perseverance.

God of all nations,
we are most grateful for
missionaries who came to this
diocese from far off lands. May
the good News of Jesus Christ,
which moulded and shaped
their lives, continue to mould
and shape our lives today.

Bless our diocese with men and
women who will follow in their
footsteps to serve the Church.

We ask this through Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, 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, Taylor Lojszczyk, 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: Rev James Saunders, Rev Paul Simms, Mollie Bailey, Jim Brady, Maureen Bridge, Jennifer Partridge, Amos Wilkes. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptism: Layla Andrews, Harrison Hipwell and Lenny Reibel (Singleton) **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Marriage: Kimberley Mendoza and Charlo Maniacup (St Patrick's Fri 26 April 1pm). **What God joins together let no man put asunder.**

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 28 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	J Woolley
Commentator		K Ingold		SCAE LEADER REQD	H Rapp	
Readers	C Harvey C Trunk	L Gorczyca	S Bates VOLUNTEER NEEDED	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		K Ingold	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	M Thomas D Thomas	C Anderson L Harrison	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
22 April	23 April <i>St George St Adalbert</i>	24 April <i>St Fidelis of Sigmaringen</i>	25 April ANZAC DAY	26 April ST MARK, EVANGELIST	27 April <i>St Louis Grignon de Montfort</i>	28 April FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	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> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> SCAE <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> SCAE 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.

Changes this Week.

The Parish Office will be closed for the ANZAC Day Public Holiday. Fr Peter Street will be saying Mass at Branxton on Thursday as Fr Thomas will be involved with the community ANZAC Day service in Singleton.

Happy School Holidays!

After a long and productive term 1, we wish the students and staff of our parish schools a happy holiday! 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** - gjmcmillan51@gmail.com

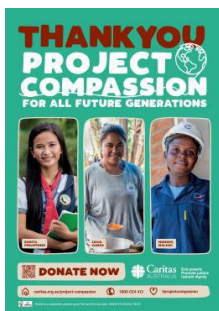
Magdalene Award: Nominations Now Open

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

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 at home, please bring it 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.



aMeN caMiNo Information – Walk and Talk

If you are considering attending one of the aMeN caMiNos this year and want more information, please join us for the Information Walk & Talk on Saturday 27 April commencing at 8.30am at St Columba's Parish Hall, Lockyer St, Adamstown. After an information session, we will set off on our walk, returning around 1.30pm. Contact formed@mncatholic.org.au to register or for further information. aMeN caMiNo 2024 Dates: 6-10 July, 3-7 August and 7-8 September.

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>

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>

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West.

Opening hours:
Mondays – 10am to 6pm
Fridays – 10am to 6pm
Saturdays 10am to 2pm



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS 21 April 2024

Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering, and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

The polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations that the Christian community recognizes and accompanies helps us to appreciate more fully what it means to be Christians. As God's people in this world, guided by his Holy Spirit, and as living stones in the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we are members of a great family, children of the Father and brothers and sisters of one another. We are not self-enclosed islands but parts of a greater whole. In this sense, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations has a synodal character: amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.

At this point in time, then, our common journey is bringing us to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Let us travel as *pilgrims of hope* towards the Holy Year, for by discovering our own vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation, and fraternity.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk10:2). Prayer – as we all know – is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" (*Catechesis*, 20 May 2020).

Yet what does it mean to be *pilgrims*? Those who go on pilgrimage seek above all to keep their eyes fixed on the *goal*, to keep it always in their mind and heart. To achieve that goal, however, they need to concentrate on *every step*, which means travelling light, getting rid of what weighs them down, carrying only the essentials and striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty and hesitation. Being a pilgrim means setting out each day, *beginning ever anew*, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas.

This is the ultimate meaning of our Christian pilgrimage: we set out on a journey to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover ourselves, thanks to an interior journey nourished by our relationships with others. We are *pilgrims because we have been called*: called to love God and to love one another. Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering; on the contrary, each day, by responding to God's call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice and love. We are pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future, committed at every step to bringing it about.

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges.

In our day, then, it is decisive that we Christians cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

FRANCIS