



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

28 April 2024

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! *(R.)*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. *(R.)*

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.' *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My children,

our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our

conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,

if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;

my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Spiritual Drink

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Sixth Sunday of Easter, B
1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10
Gospel: John 15:9-17

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: Ror Ash, Daniel Beck, Mark Furness, Pauline O'Gorman. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Sr Josephine Hoffman (laid to rest in Mercy Convent cemetery 24 April 2024). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptism: Andie Cahill and Orion Wiseman (Greta) **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
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
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	
PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
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 5 MAY 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		L Harrison	SCAE LEADER REQD			
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	C Miller A Humphreys	G Cattermole	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
29 April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	30 April <i>St Pius V</i>	1 May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	2 May <i>St Athanasius</i>	3 May <i>ST PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES</i>	4 May	5 May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	5.00pm LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	5.00pm LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.20am LOTW <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 1st Anniversary <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	7.00am SCAE 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	NO MASS		NO MASS		6.00pm Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	7.35am Rosary 8.15am Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

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 During May

Fr Thomas will be taking leave during May to return home to India. During this time we will have Fr Peter Street and Fr Greg Arnold celebrating the weekend masses.

There will be no weekday Mass said in Greta or Branxton for the month. Please check the **Weekly Mass Diary** for any changes.

Next week the Parish Office will be open Monday and closed Thursday.

Mass Count During May

The Council of Priests recently reviewed the results of the most recent Mass count which was undertaken in 2021. It was determined that these figures were significantly affected by COVID and do not accurately reflect our current reality. A review of Pastoral Ministries in the Diocese has resulted in a renewed focus on mission and evangelization so Bishop Michael and the Council are of the view that a Mass count reflecting our current reality would be beneficial at this time. The count will take place of the four Sundays of May. This notice is to make you aware that the count will be taking place and that you may be asked your age group when attending Mass on those Sundays. Thank you for your cooperation.

St Patrick's Parish Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 4 May 2024 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the soul of Donald (Pat) Edwards and all those who have anniversaries May.

We welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon

Everyone is invited to join the St Brigid's Caritas group for their monthly luncheon at Miller Park Hotel on Friday 17 May. Lunch will be from 12pm and if you would like to attend, please confirm with Mercia.

Annual Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place

This year's pilgrimage to MacKillop Place will be on Friday 23 August 2024. More details to follow. Cost has increased to \$80.00 per person. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mercia via Parish Office (or at Mass). Cost includes bus, morning tea and museum entry. You will need to buy your own lunch. Father Thomas will accompany us and celebrate Mass. Numbers need to be finalised by 1 July. We would encourage everyone to join us for the trip as it is a spiritually rewarding day.

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

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>

Calvary Care Pastoral Practitioners

Calvary are seeking professional Practitioners to work across Calvary Aged Care Homes in mid north coast and Hunter regions of NSW. The positions are available in the towns of Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Tanilba Bay, Cundletown/Taree, Coffs Harbour and South West Rocks.

Embark on a purposeful journey with Australia's premier health care provider. Seize the opportunity to pioneer and launch new Pastoral and Spiritual Services across Calvary Aged Care homes. Elevate your career as a Pastoral Care Practitioner in one of our homes. Further details are on the noticeboard flyer.

Shine a Light on Domestic Violence

A candlelight vigil will be held on Wednesday 1 May 2024 from 5.30pm in the Singleton Uniting Church, Church Street. People from all walks of life across the country will come together and light a candle in honour of those who have lost their lives, and those who have survived, domestic and family violence. Help us to shine the light. Candles will be available at the event. Any donations of non-perishable food items for survivors of domestic violence and the homeless are greatly appreciated and can be donated on the night.

I am the vine and you are the branches

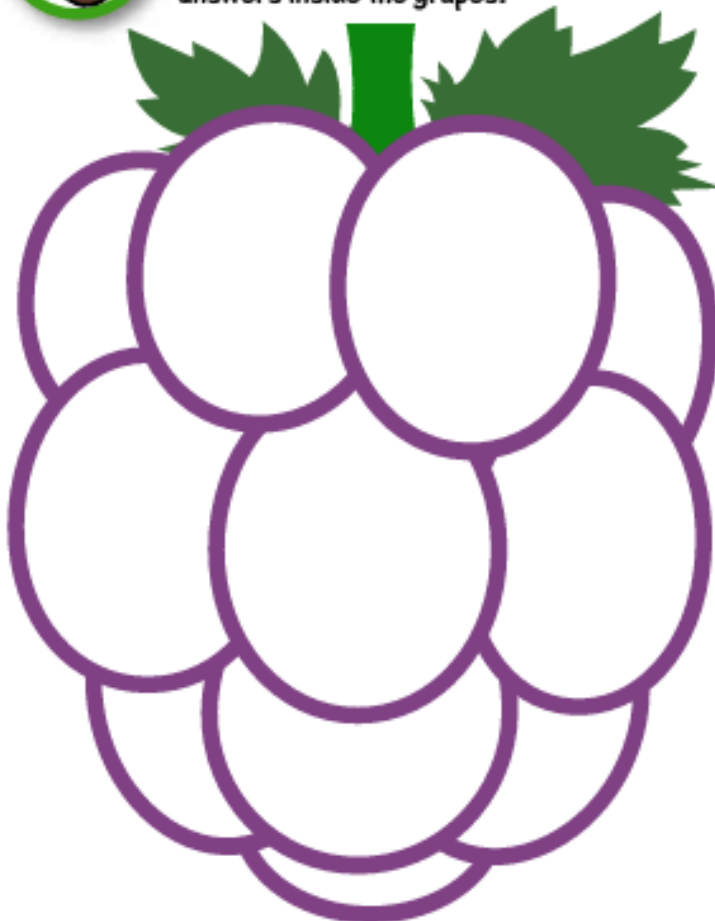


5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Who are some people in your community who are like branches of the vine? On each branch, write down a name and how they contribute their 'fruit' to the community.



Jesus says that we must be fruitful disciples. What are some of the ways that you can be a disciple to Jesus? Write or draw your answers inside the grapes.



Can you work out which of these three branches is the one bearing fruit?

