



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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

**5 May 2024**

**First Reading**

**Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2**

**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** **1 John 4:7-10**

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**John 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**John 15:9-17**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,

so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's

commandments

and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you

and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another,

as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love

than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you,

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know

his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION  
BY NICK BRODIE**

**Francis' Focus**

Jesus' command to 'love one another' is given twice in this short passage. As such, it needs to be taken seriously and become the guiding principle in our daily lives. But, as Pope Francis once said, expressing Christian love means going beyond 'words, words, words'.

'First and foremost,' the Pope points out, 'it is important to realise that Christ's love is not a superficial feeling.' In this Gospel passage Jesus was not telling his disciples to be unflappably polite or overtly nice to each other. This was not a message about social conventions. Jesus is concerned with our attitude toward others, and those actions that flow from it. 'Love,' as the Pope points out, 'is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes, in deeds.'

As the Pope has repeatedly stressed, loving another person often requires us to challenge our own attitudes. We are called to love everyone, with openness to, as the Pope puts it, 'however they may be and whatever their situation.'

While sometimes hard, this is our Christian duty: We are called to love in response to being loved.

Which means it is not our place to judge or put conditions on the love we receive and share. 'To love as the Lord loves us,' the Pope says, 'means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be.'

© Nick Brodie

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> The Ascension of the Lord, Year B <b>1st Reading:</b> Acts 1:1-11 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Ephesians 1:17-23 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 16:15-20
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.</i>

## 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:** Geoff Tope. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Baptism:** Vera Reakes (Sat Singleton). Jack and Scarlett Palmer (Singleton) **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Marriage:** Zachary Simpson and Fiona Morgan (St Patrick's Sat 11 May 2024, 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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Singleton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Branxton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Stella Danks</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 5pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca			<b>SCAE LEADER REQD</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	<b>SCAE LEADER REQD</b> L Harrison	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
<b>Offertory</b>	L Waters Family	J Nightingale N Ernst	J Dunn M Jones	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b> 6 May	<b>Tuesday</b> 7 May	<b>Wednesday</b> 8 May	<b>Thursday</b> 9 May	<b>Friday</b> 10 May <i>St John De Avila</i>	<b>Saturday</b> 11 May	<b>Sunday</b> 12 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>LOTW</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<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> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	<b>NO MASS</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>		<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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://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 Friday.

## **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 will be asked which age group you fit into when attending Mass on those Sundays. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Let's Celebrate!**

On Monday 13 May 2024, Erica will have been working as our Parish Secretary for 10 years! To celebrate this milestone there will be a dinner in her honour at Club Singleton Restaurant on Monday 13 May from 6pm. If you would like to join us, please place your name on the sheet at the back of the church or contact the parish office by Friday 10 May.

## **Singleton Parish Sacramental Program Meeting**

All families involved in the 2024 Sacramental Program in the Singleton parish are asked to attend an information meeting for the upcoming Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 13 May from 6pm in St Patrick's Church Singleton.

## **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.

## **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>

## **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](mailto:mikelinda4@hotmail.com) or **Gerard McMillan** - [gjcmillan51@gmail.com](mailto:gjcmillan51@gmail.com)

## **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.

**LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS  
TO MSGR. RINO FISICHELLA, PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION,  
FOR THE JUBILEE 2025**



*Part 1 of 2*

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God’s holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness. A significant step on this journey was already taken with the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which allowed us to appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the Father’s merciful love, in order to become, in our turn, its witnesses.

In the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience first-hand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life. Together with all our brothers and sisters, we Christians endured those hardships and limitations. Our churches remained closed, as did our schools, factories, offices, shops, and venues for recreation. All of us saw certain freedoms curtailed, while the pandemic generated feelings not only of grief, but also, at times, of doubt, fear and disorientation. The scientific community quickly developed an initial remedy that is gradually permitting us to resume our daily lives. We are fully confident that the epidemic will be overcome and that the world will return to its usual pattern of personal relationships and social life. This will happen more readily to the extent that we can demonstrate effective solidarity, so that our neighbours most in need will not be neglected, and that everyone can have access to scientific breakthroughs and the necessary medicines.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, “The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food” (Lev 25:6-7).

*Part 2 will be published next week.*