



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

The Most Holy Trinity, Year B

26 May 2024

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

With his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Rev 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorify to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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



**REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE**

Francis' Focus

When Pope Francis instituted the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2015, he said the following: 'Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.'

'With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze,' the Pope went on to say, 'we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness.'

The Pope reminds us that Jesus showed us what mercy looks like. 'The signs he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.'

Which shows us what kind of community our Merciful God calls us to be. 'Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life,' declared Pope Francis, reminding us that 'nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy.'

'All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers,' he stresses.

'From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God,' the Pope concludes, 'the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, B
1st Reading: Exodus 24:3-8
2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15
Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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: Ivy Goodwin, Rita Gresham, Nell Meyn, Mary McAlister, Rev Patrick Murphy, Russell Rapp. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Robin Wade. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

*The prayers for the sick list will be cleared from next week.
If you wish for a name to remain on the list, please contact the Parish Office.*

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 Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Stella Danks	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 2 JUNE 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	G Cattermole			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	SCAE LEADER REQD J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	S McAlister S Trunk	J Nightingale N Ernst	G Cattermole	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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	28 May	29 May <i>St Paul VI</i>	30 May	31 May <i>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	1 June <i>St Justin</i>	2 June <i>THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, YEAR B</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS		NO MASS		<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 During May

Fr Thomas will be taking leave during May to return home to India. This weekend we have Fr Greg Arnold celebrating Mass IN Branxton and Fr Anthony Coloma in Singleton and Greta. There will be no weekday Mass said in Greta or Branxton Monday – Thursday this week. Fr Thomas will be back for Mass on 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.

It's Nearly Tax Time!

If you are one of our regular planned givers either via envelope or direct debit, you will find a tax receipt request form at the back of the church. Please complete and return either to the parish office or by placing in the collection plate. The form also asks if you would like to keep using envelopes for 2024-25.

If you would like to start to give to the Second Collection via envelopes or direct debit, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

St Patrick's Parish Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 1 June 2024 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the victims of the Greta Bus Crash. We also welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday.

Annual Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place

This year's pilgrimage to MacKillop Place will be on Friday 23 August 2024. Cost is \$80.00 per person. Bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am and picking up at Greta, Lochinvar, Rutherford and East Maitland at 7am. Cost includes bus, morning tea, museum entry and Mass in the chapel at 12pm with Fr Thomas. You will need to buy your own lunch at North Ryde RSL. Bus will leave Sydney at 3pm. Numbers must be finalised by 12 July. Names to Mercia via the Parish Office or see Mercia at Mass. We 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

Can You Help CatholicCare Make a Difference?

A single mum, three couples from Afghanistan, a university student, and dozens of school students – these are just a few of the people CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has supported in the last couple of months. As a not-for-profit organisation, we can't do this work without the generosity of our community. Can you help us to support more? Donate to our 2024 Make a Difference appeal now: www.mycause.com.au/page/345965/make-a-difference.

The CatholicCare Refugee Hub is looking for volunteers to support its Driving and Tutoring programs. As part of the Driving Program, you will mentor participants and help them build their skills through both practical and theory lessons. Using CatholicCare's insured fleet cars, you will also assist them in completing their logbook hours to get their license. In the Tutoring Program, you will support primary and high school students from refugee backgrounds with their schoolwork. The program runs from 2.30pm to 5pm on Tuesdays during the school term. For more information or to apply, visit www.catholiccare.org.au/community-programs/community-refugee-hub/volunteer/



2024 National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2024, Now More Than Ever, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will –and must – continue. There have been many moments in Australia's reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect. Now more than ever, we need to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation. We know that the 6.2 million Australians who voted YES are committed to better outcomes for First Nations people and are with us. Reconciliation supporters must stand up to defend and uphold the rights of First Nations peoples. To call out racism wherever we encounter it, and to actively reinforce the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across this continent. Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change. Now more than ever, we need reconciliation. For more info go to www.reconciliation.org.au

Dear Parish Family,

I would like to extend a heartfelt **Thank You** to everyone for your warm wishes and the celebration of my 10 years in the Parish Office. I felt incredibly honoured and cherished at the beautiful dinner on Monday 13th May and I was very spoilt with the special gifts, delicious cake and speeches I received. It was truly lovely to see all those beautiful faces gathered together, making the evening a great celebration.

Your support in my work every day means the world to me. This position came into my life at a perfect time, just as we were sending our second son, Nate, off to school. It has allowed me to balance my responsibilities at home with my boys and engage in a job I thoroughly enjoy.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working alongside some wonderful clergy, Fr George, Fr Peter, Fr Thomas, Fr Anthony and Deacon Solomon, as well as all the visiting clergy and a diverse range of people from our parishes and the diocese.

Thank you once again for your kindness, support, and the sense of community that you have contributed to my time as the Parish Secretary. I look forward to many more years of service and shared moments with all of you (we'll see if I can make another 10... this 10 has really flown!)

Erica

