

First Reading **Ezekiel 17:22-24**
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a
shoot and plant it myself on a very high
mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain of
Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade
of its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that
I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall
trees and makes the low ones grow, who
withers green trees and makes the
withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

(R.)

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

Second Reading **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 4:26-34**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

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

REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE

Francis' Focus

In today's Gospel, Pope Francis reminds us, Jesus 'teaches us that even everyday things ... are inhabited by God's hidden presence.'

This should encourage us. As the Pope suggests, 'with this parable Jesus wants to instil us with confidence.' We can trust that God is still mysteriously at work building His Kingdom.

After all, the Kingdom of God is already growing – even if we do not readily see it. 'At times,' the Pope says, 'the din of the world, along with the many activities that fill our days, prevent us from stopping and seeing how the Lord is conducting history.'

'The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality,' the Pope says. He adds that 'it asks us to have bigger eyes, that are able to see further, especially beyond appearances, in order to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life and that of history.'

We should, therefore, be open to seeing God at work in the smallest of places.

But we are also called to be more than passive spectators. Jesus wants us to become cultivators of the Kingdom. While the mysterious growth of the Kingdom is the work of God, we all have a part to play in God's plan. 'It is up to us to sow,' the Pope points out, 'and to sow with love, with dedication and with patience.'

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Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour! COMMUNION ANTIPHON: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.	Prayer Requests Sick: Karl Bendeich, Basil Bendeich, Carmel Bendeich, Lorraine Cooper, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Noel House, Warren Markham, Cecily Agnew, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Lynne Williams, Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. Baptisms: Callum Frost (Branxton). Hudson Hardy, Gina Lombardo, Ruben Ward (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B 1st Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 Gospel: Mark 4:35-41	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.</i></p>
MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

PARISH CONTACTS				
Parish Priest	<i>Rev Thomas Chirackal</i>	Presbytery: 6578 9651		Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	<i>Mrs Erica Janssen</i>	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)				
<i>Branxton</i>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335		
<i>Greta</i>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334		
Schools in our Parishes				
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<i>Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au	
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au	
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<i>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</i>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au	
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<i>Director: Ms Stella Danks</i>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au	

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 23 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	G McMillan
Commentator	SCAE LEADER REQD	A Humphreys	G Cattermole	SCAE LEADER REQD	H Rapp	
Readers	S Trunk C Harvey	L Gorczyca	S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		A Humphreys	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	J Stafa S Stafa	J Nightingale N Ernst	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 17 June	Tuesday 18 June	Wednesday 19 June <i>St Romuald</i>	Thursday 20 June	Friday 21 June <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	Saturday 22 June <i>St John Fisher & Thomas More</i>	Sunday 23 June TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.30pm Practice for Confirmation St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home 6.30pm SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 5.00pm Mass St Paul's Glendonbrook	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm SCAE St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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.

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.

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.

Cantor Formation

Anne Millard will be facilitating formation for those interested in joining the Cantor for Mass. The formations will be held at St Patrick's Church and the group will attend Mass at 5pm on Tuesdays 9, 16, 23, 30 July 2024. They will then stay after Mass for formation, finishing at about 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining these sessions, please contact Fiona Duque on Fiona.duque1@mn.catholic.org.au

Stepping Stones Formation – We Grieve

We all grieve. Experiences of grief are stepping stones in our human journey. 'We Grieve' is an opportunity to explore our understanding of change, loss and grief. Benita Tait will be facilitating a session in our Parish Office on Monday 29 July from 10am-1pm. This course is open to everyone. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office on 5507 4048 or email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au to register. See the noticeboard for more information.

Broke Bicentennial Celebrations

In conjunction with the Broke Bicentennial celebrations on 12 and 13 October 2024, a collection of wedding gowns and memorabilia will be on display in the Immaculate Conception Church in Broke. If you have any gowns you would like to add to the display, please contact Bernadette Tolson at Bernadette.tolson@gmail.com

Parish Property update

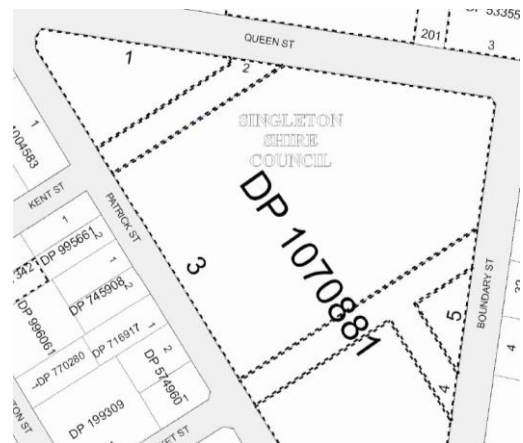
BRANXTON PARISH

Over the past few years, the Branxton Parish has been in negotiations to sell the vacant lot of land at 46 Station Street between the old convent and old presbytery. This sale has now settled for the purchase price of \$380,000. Thank you to the Finance Council and the Diocesan Legal Department for their work on this sale. A fence has now been erected across the property and can no longer be used for parish parking.



SINGLETON PARISH

Singleton Parish have been in discussions for many years as to how the land which housed the old Catholic Junior School, in Patrick Street should be utilised. After the fire and subsequent demolition of the buildings, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle showed an interest in the land and valuations were completed and agreed upon by the Finance Council, Pastoral Council and Property Management Team. The land has now been transferred into the name of the Diocese and the Parish has received \$4,000,000 for the parcel of land known as Lot 3 DP 1070881, 6 Patrick Street, bounded by Queen and Boundary Streets. The parcel of land is 18,460m² and includes the St Nicholas Early Education Centre and the house on the corner of Queen Street. The Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils met on Wednesday 5 June 2024. The \$4m will be placed in a term deposit with the Catholic Community Fund while options for investing the money to create a sustainable income stream for the Parish can be investigated. Again, thank you to all who were involved over the years in discussions regarding this parcel of land.



Yet it grows to become the biggest of all shrubs, with large branches for birds to make their nests.



Draw some birds making their nests in the tree.



A CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: CONFIRMATION



The following candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 21st of June at 6.30pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton:

Isla Adam	James Marquez	Cooper Scott
Boston Bowtell	Zane Marquez	James Simmonds
Chryssa Castanon	Grace Mayled	Samantha Simmonds
Zerge Domingo	Thomas Mayled	Ava Simmons
Charles Fuller	Alexander Morgan	Kennedy Spinks
Edward Gerard	Meg Oliver	Genevieve Trost
Skyla Jandzio	Samantha Pagala	Hunter Williamson
Chelsea Klasen-Farley	Lachlan Sciani	Matilda Wesley

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive this very special Sacrament of Initiation on their journey to become full members of the Catholic community. The whole Parish is invited to attend on Friday and support them.

Prayer for Refugees

God of Love,
You walk with all your people.
You welcome the neighbour and the stranger.
May we do likewise, acting for justice so that all people know peace and freedom,
at home and far away.

God of Care,
You feed the hungry and make room for all who are displaced. May we do likewise, acting with compassion so that all people fleeing poverty and fear find what they need to live well.

God of Freedom,
you meet us where we are and make the way for life. May we do likewise, acting in solidarity with all people, especially migrants and refugees,
to realise hope together.
Amen.

