



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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

7 July 2024



First Reading **Ezekiel 2:2-5**
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 122. R. v.2**
(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**

Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy. **(R.)**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. **(R.)**

Second Reading **2 Cor 12:7-10**
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Luke 4:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 6:1-6**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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

REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE

Francis' Focus

The lack of acceptance that Jesus encountered in 'his home town,' Pope Francis suggests, was the product of habit and prejudice. As the Pope points out, 'it is difficult to open ourselves to what is new and allow ourselves to be amazed.'

Jesus has something of an image problem, in the sense that his fellow countryfolk had a certain image of him they could not shake off. They saw a tradesman, whose family they knew, yet Jesus confounded their preconceptions.

Today's Gospel remains especially relevant for those who cling to certain images of Jesus. There is a risk, the Pope says, that we 'think we know Jesus, that we already know so much about Him and that it is enough to repeat the same things as always.' We can easily slip into comforting habits of religion and a prejudicial type of belief.

The Pope encourages us to embrace 'openness to what is new' and 'openness to God's surprises.' He wants us to be amazed again!

As the Pope puts it, we should be amazed because 'God incarnated Himself: God is humble, God is tender, God is hidden, he draws near to us, living the normality of our daily life.' And what is more amazing than the idea of God being among us?

© Nick Brodie

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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
1st Reading: Amos 7:12-15
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

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: Cecily Agnew, Mary Bailey, Karl Bendeich, Basil Bendeich, Carmel Bendeich, Lorraine Cooper, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Lynne Williams, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Baptisms: Jamie Graham (Branxton). Mallorie Lawrence and Patrick Redgrove (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Anniversaries: Clara Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Marie Fuller (Mon 15 July, St Patrick's). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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 14 JULY 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	SCAE LEADER REQ'D	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	C Zaragoza M Thomas	L Harrison	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	J Nightingale C Anderson	J Dunn M Jones	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
8 July	9 July <i>St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions</i>	10 July	11 July <i>St Benedict</i>	12 July	13 July <i>St Henry</i>	14 July FIFTEENTH 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 LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am SCAE 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass 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.

Parish Office Hours for July

Other than the usual Monday closure, the Parish office will be closed on **Thurs 18 July** and for the week of **22-26 July**.

Singleton Senior Singles Monthly Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on **Tuesday 9 July 2024 at 12pm** in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Any seniors who are single are invited along for a bit of camaraderie and chat over a meal.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on **Wednesday 10 July at 1.30pm** in the home Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres, Singleton Heights (enter via Willcox Ave). All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Lunch

St Brigid's Caritas will hold their monthly lunch on **Friday 12 July at 12pm** in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All parishioners are welcome to join the group for lunch. Please let Mercia know if you will be attending.

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.

A Reflection Day with Fr Kevin Dance CP

All are invited to a day of reflection and Mass in Jesus, the Good Shepherd Parish, at Belmont Church Hall - 40 Ernest Street Belmont on **Tuesday 9 July 2024 from 8.30am** to sign in and enjoy a cuppa. Starts at 9am and finishes at 4.30pm. Cost is by donation. Enquiries and registrations to Jan on 0438 252 657 or elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au RSVP 2 July. BYO lunch. Morning tea provided.

Clinical Pastoral Education – Introductory Course

This course will be held at MacKillop Parish Centre, Milson Street, Charlestown from 9.00am to 4.00pm, commencing **Monday 15 July**. The course is conducted over six consecutive Mondays concluding on 19 August. Cost: \$500. For further information contact Fr. Roger Zohrab. Phone: 0408 151 481 Email: rzohrab@bigpond.com OR roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au.

2024 NAIDOC Week Celebrations

NAIDOC week celebrations are held across Australia from 7-13 July to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme is **'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'** and it celebrates the unyielding spirit of our communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

- Singleton NAIDOC Community Day will be held on **Wednesday 10 July 2024 from 10am-2pm** at the Singleton Showground. The event is open to the entire community so head along and enjoy the many activities planned for the day.
- Cessnock City Council are holding many events during the week. To find out what's on go to <https://www.cessnock.nsw.org.au/naidocweek2024>

Follow the Yellow Brick Road this August

Tickets are now on sale for St Catherine's Catholic College's production of The Wizard of Oz! Students and staff having been working hard all year to bring this show to life for their college family and friends and the wider Singleton community! Show times are **Friday 16 August at 6.30pm** and **Saturday 17 August at 2.00pm and 6.30pm**.

Tickets available via <https://www.trybooking.com/CTBXU>
Adults \$20, Students/Concession \$10 and Family of 4 \$50.

aMeN caMiNo Community Walk

We invite you to sample the aMeN caMiNo experience through this Community Walk on **Saturday 17 August 2024 from 8am-11am** beginning at Merewether. Register your Interest here: <https://forms.office.com/r/w3tX1w69t3>.

aMeN caMiNo Seasons of Creation Weekend Retreat

Join us for an aMeN caMiNo weekend experience during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. This caMiNo is suitable for both beginners and experienced walkers. It offers a one or two-day experience on **7 and 8 September**. For more information visit our website: mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino.

Growth Formation Retreat

Jesus, Light of the World Communities will be hosting a retreat in August. Over two nights and three days from **23 to 25 August**, the retreat will include a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, workshops, discussions and an hour of empowerment. It's being hosted at the Collaroy Centre. Accommodation is available from \$360 per twin share or \$450 for single. Call Helen on 0433 455 114 for more information or to book.

Scone Film Festival – The Way, My Way

Starring Chris Haywood, THE WAY, MY WAY is the charming and captivating true story of a stubborn, self-centred Australian man who decides to walk the 800-kilometre-long Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through Spain. He doesn't know why he's doing it... but one step at a time, it will change him and his outlook on life forever. Based on Bill Bennett's best-selling memoir of the same name. The movie will be showing at the Scone Films Pop Up Cinema, Cnr of Oxford Rd and Cooper St Scone on **Friday 26 July**. Tickets are available via www.sconefilms.org.au or at the Green Seed Grocer, Scone or with cash at the door. For more information go to <https://www.sconefilms.org.au/>

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 now: www.mycause.com.au/page/345965/make-a-difference.

NATSICC LITURGY TEAM WELCOME



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to this special celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. On this day, we gather as one community to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations Peoples to our Australian Catholic Church.

The Gospel Reading for 7 July, from Mark 6:1-6, tells the story of Jesus returning to His hometown, only to be met with scepticism and disbelief. Despite His teachings and miracles, those who knew Him best failed to recognise His divine wisdom and power. This passage resonates deeply with our own experiences as First Australians, as we can often find that our voices go unheard and our contributions not embraced.

The recent Voice referendum highlighted the ongoing journey toward recognition and reconciliation. While the outcome was not what many hoped for, it has strengthened our resolve and commitment to working together for a better Australia for everyone. Like Jesus, who persevered in His mission despite the obstacles, we too remain committed to our Culture, our Land, our Church, and our communities with unwavering hope and determination.

As we gather on this sacred land, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and honour our Elders past and present, and our young people. Our connection to the land, waters, and skies is deeply rooted in our identity and spirituality. We invite you to join us in respecting and cherishing this connection, as it is vital to our shared journey of faith.

The themes for today – “Keep the fires burning” and “Strong in faith” are very much related and so necessary for those working for Reconciliation. Being strong in faith is to keep the fire deep within our hearts burning. For it is to retain hope that God’s ways, whatever the rejections and insults and agonies, will in the end win out. And faith attaches us to God, so we can continue to know God’s love deep within our hearts, which gives us the capacity to love and to forgive even in the darkest of times

As Pope Francis reminds us, we are called to be a Church that goes forth, embracing all cultures and peoples. Let us open our hearts to the wisdom and spirituality of our First Nations Peoples, recognizing the presence of Christ in our stories and traditions. May this celebration be a moment of grace, healing, and transformation for all of us. Thank you for joining us in this celebration. May the Holy Spirit guide and bless each of us as we journey together in faith, hope, and love.

For more information and resources visit www.natsicc.org.au

