



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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4 August 2024



First Reading Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
A reading from the book of the Exodus

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.' 'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."' And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:3-4, 23-25, 54. R. v.24

(R.) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us, we will tell to the next generation: the glories of the Lord and his might. **(R.)**

He commanded the clouds above and opened the gates of heaven. He rained down manna for their food, and gave them bread from heaven. **(R.)**

Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food. He brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. **(R.)**

Second Reading Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:24-35
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.

Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What

work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.'

Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Francis' Focus

Pope Francis encourages us to remember that 'Jesus came to bring us something more' than just food or even miracles. Jesus seeks 'to open our lives to a wider horizon.'

Jesus, the Pope points out, 'encourages the people to go a step further' than being receivers of bread. Jesus wants his followers to ponder 'the significance of the miracle, and not simply to take advantage of it.'

In a sense, the crowd in this Gospel passage got hung up on spiritual work and gain. They ask: what must they do? Jesus says: believe in him. 'What work will you do?', they ask in turn. It is as if their relationship with God was transactional.

Jesus wants his followers to avoid this sort of thinking. 'This is a common temptation', the Pope says, where 'the crowd wants to know from Jesus which actions it must perform in order to please God.'

The reality which Jesus reveals is quite the opposite. Rather, as the Pope puts it, 'faith in Jesus allows us to carry out God's works.'

It is, after all, the giver of life itself who is the giver of bread. That creative love precedes any of our thoughts or actions. We receive God's love by recognising its presence. Which in turn allows us to play our part in making it present to others

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B 1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8 2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2 Gospel: John 6:41-51
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>

Prayer Requests

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

Anniversaries: Frank Dunn, Cheryl Klase, Adrian and Margreta Klase, Ronald Briley, George Cattermole, Mollie Bogan, Lester Bogan, John Lynch. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Des Carroll, Dot Robinson, Jann Kerin, Betty Ball, John Gatt. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Isabella and Zara Bayley, Grace and William Lawrie (Singleton). **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
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 11 AUGUST 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		J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
Commentator	SCAE LEADER REQD	L Harrison	G Cattermole		SCAE LEADER REQD	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen N Janssen H Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	C Miller A Humphreys	J Dunn M Jones	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		D Clarke				

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
5 August <i>Dedication of the Basilica for St Mary Major</i>	6 August <i>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</i>	7 August <i>St Sixtus II & Companions St Cajetan</i>	8 August <i>St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)</i>	9 August <i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	10 August <i>St Lawrence</i>	11 August <i>NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</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>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE 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.

Parish Office Hours

Other than the usual Monday closure, the Parish office will be closed on Friday 9 August.

Vinnies Winter Appeal – Branxton Parish

The Parish of Branxton and Greta collect for the Vinnies Winter Appeal over the weekend of 10 and 11 August. There will be envelopes provided at both Masses, Saturday at Branxton and Sunday at Greta. If required there will Tax Receipts Issued on the day. For more information please speak with Alan Humphreys.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet for their monthly luncheon on Friday 16 August from 12pm in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. All are invited to attend.

Mary Mackillop Place Pilgrimage - Cancelled

Due to lack of numbers, the pilgrimage to Mary Mackillop Place on Friday 23 August has been cancelled. God Bless and remember 'We are but travellers on the journey'.

25th Jubilee Celebrations

Bishop Michael Kennedy invites the People of the Diocese to join him in celebrating his 25th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at a concelebrated Mass commencing at 11am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton on Wednesday 14 August 2024. There will be other priest and deacon jubilarians acknowledged at the Mass. All are welcome!

Follow the Yellow Brick Road this August!

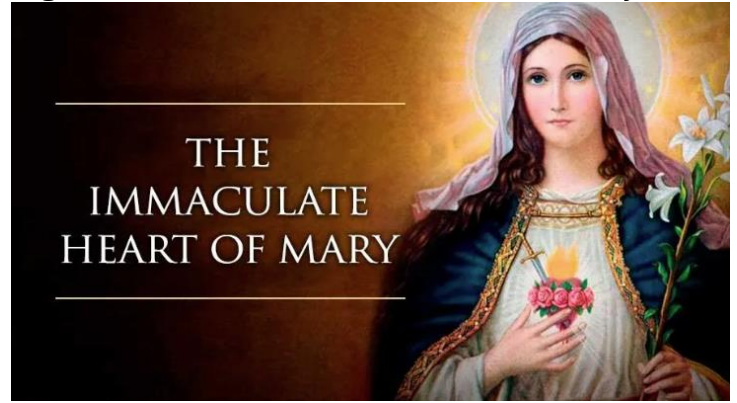
Tickets are now on sale for St Catherine's Catholic College's production of The Wizard of Oz! Students and staff having been working hard all year to bring this show to life for their college family and friends and the wider Singleton community! Show times are Friday 16 August at 6.30pm and Saturday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

Caritas Australia's Women for the World Appeal

Support women to lift their families and communities out of poverty. With your support Memory completed vocational training and became the first female carpenter from her village in Malawi. More women and girls need this support to break the cycle of poverty. You can create real change for women like Memory. Donate online at: www.caritas.org.au

August is the Month of The Immaculate Heart of Mary



The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart. Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

Season of Creation: Wonder – Weaving - Healing

Join Catholic Earthcare and their Season of Creation Convocation for three special events in September.

- Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September - online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences
- Saturday 14 September at Diocesan Resource Centre - hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese and consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration.

Information and Registration at:

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165

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.

Mass to be Celebrated in the Latin Tridentine Rite

For many years, the diocese has provided for parishioners who wished to attend Mass and pray according to the liturgical books of 1962 the opportunity to do so. Since COVID we have had some difficulty finding a priest qualified and available to celebrate this Mass. Since the diocese no longer has priests who are able to celebrate the 1962 liturgy in conformity with *Traditionis Custodes*, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has entered an agreement with the Fraternity of St Peter, District of Oceania (FSSP), to provide a priest to meet the sacramental needs of this Community. Fr Richard Wallace, FSSP is being appointed as the Latin Mass Chaplain for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Mass will be every Sunday, starting 18 August 2024 at 9.30am at St John the Baptist Oratory, Cathedral St Maitland. For more info on the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP), please see www.fssp.org

Live Stream Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream

NOVENA to Our Lady of the Assumption

August 7th - 15th



*Mary, Queen assumed into heaven,
I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth,
you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity.
Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity.
Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven.
Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son,
and that someday my body shall rejoin my soul in the unending bliss of heaven.
From this earth, over which I tread as a pilgrim, I look to you for help.
When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus
to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you. Amen*

Be **Fierce** for **Fair**

Feast of Saint
Mary MacKillop

8 August 2024



MARY
MACKILLOP
today



Be Fierce for Fair on the Feast Day of Australia's most loved Saint

Celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop's Feast Day as a faithful community who believe in being fierce in the face of adversity and fair where there is injustice. When Mary saw families living on the margins without access to education, she set up a school to teach children herself — regardless of their situation. She and the Sisters of St Joseph went wherever the need was greatest. And despite facing enormous challenges, they continued to walk with people every step of the way.

“Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage.”

— St Mary MacKillop

This August let's walk in Mary's footsteps. Like Mary, let's be fierce in the face of adversity. Let's be fair and act when we see injustice. Let's give love to those we encounter each day. *Together, let's be Fierce for Fair!* Donate now to help continue Mary's inspiring legacy so people around the world can reach their full potential and flourish in the face of poverty.