



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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

6 October 2024

First Reading **Genesis 2:18-24**
A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 127. R. v.5**

**(R.) May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! **(R.)**

Second Reading **Hebrews 2:9-11**
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **cf 1 John 4:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.**
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 10:2-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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



**FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION
BY NICK BRODIE**

'They were testing him.' This sentence is key to understanding this Gospel passage. The Pharisees, having firm ideas about what the rules were, deliberately put a tricky question to Jesus.

Unfazed, Jesus questions his questioners: 'What did Moses command you?' After they give a legalistic reply, which he probably expected, Jesus speaks not of commands but of creation. As Pope Francis says, 'Jesus firstly, with the wisdom and authority that come to him from the Father, puts the Mosaic prescription into perspective.' Rules should always serve a higher purpose.

Crucial to Jesus' teaching on marriage is its mutual nature, where lives are joined. It has purpose and meaning. As the Pope puts it, 'the man and woman are called to recognise each other, to complement each other, to help each other.'

Jesus was evidently keen to encourage people to focus on the sacred attributes of marriage more than the issue of divorce itself. Interestingly, he did not even use the word translated for us as 'divorce' until later pressed to do so by the apostles. Even then, he used it in the sense of something done by one party to another. Recognising this, Pope Francis suggests that the Church should always strive 'to make her maternal closeness tangibly felt by those who experience relationships that are broken or that continue in a difficult and trying way.'

© Nick Brodie

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
 Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
 The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11
2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13
Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

MYSTERY OF FAITH
 When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

We remember in our prayers:

Sick: Cecily Agnew, Mary Bailey, Lorraine Cooper, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Kelvin Landers, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Colleen Torrington, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Baptisms: Apollo Nguyen (Branxton) and Louis Adler (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Anniversaries: Karen Varnum, Joyce Meissner.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Mass intentions may be written on an envelope and placed on the collection plate, emailed or phoned to the Parish Office by 12pm Wednesday. Mass offering envelopes are available in each church. Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person or their family to enable names to be published.

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	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	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	Principal: Mr Dave Crawford	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 13 OCTOBER 2024						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	SCAE LEADER REQD A Humphreys	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	C Trunk A Trunk	C Miller N Ernst	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
7 October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	8 October	9 October <i>St Denis & Comps St John Leonardi</i>	10 October	11 October <i>St John XXIII, Pope</i>	12 October	13 October <i>28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton <u>9.20am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<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 or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

Daylight Savings Starts 6 October 2024



Summer is on the way! And with it, daylight savings started this morning at 2am, Sunday 6 October 2024. Evening Mass times in Singleton will change to 6pm from Monday 7 October. **Evening Mass on Sunday 6 October will be said at 5pm.**

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. All are singles are welcome and we would love to see you there.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 October 2024 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 Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite all parishioners to join them for their monthly luncheon on Friday 18 October at 12pm in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant. A great way to make new friends and catch up with those you already know.

Ordination of Solomon Okovido

The Ordination of Solomon Okovido will be on Saturday 23 November at 10am at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. A bus has been arranged to take those parishioners who wish to attend. It will leave from Singleton at 8am and collect in Branxton, returning at 2pm. If you would like to book a seat on the bus, please contact the Parish Office 55074048. **Seats are limited.**

2025 Columban Calendars

Julie Dries will be selling 2025 Columban Calendars at St Patrick's Church, Singleton for \$10. *If you are not in Singleton and would like a calendar, please place money in an envelope marked "2025 Calendar" on the collection plate and your calendar will be sent to your church.*

Scone Parish – Position Vacant

Scone Parish is seeking a Parish Secretary, 14 hours per week. Hours are flexible and can be worked across Tuesday to Friday. To apply, find the vacancy advertised on the Diocese website under Careers, Diocese positions vacant: www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions Ring Fr Graham Fullick for more info on 6545 9911

2024 Public Rosary – October is Month of the Rosary

The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (October 13, 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer.

Join the nation-wide rosary chain at **St Catherine's Church Greta** on Saturday 12 October from 10.00am. As this is an outdoor event, please bring along a chair should you need to be seated during the Rosary. If you have any questions, please contact Darryl Clarke.

You can also join the public Rosary at **St Brigid's Branxton** on Saturday 12 October from 5.30pm around the statue of Mary in the grounds of the old St Brigid's School. These public Rosaries are to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the miracle at Fatima.



God's Word Daily Reflections 2025

The ideal companion for the 2025 Holy Year. This edition has been prepared for Australia and New Zealand and contains the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others.

- Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible.
- Liturgical information of the day, including feasts and memorials of saints.
- Space to note down personal reflections, and important events.
- Produced in flexi-cover format with attractive colour designs.

To order, complete one of the marked envelopes available at the church, include your \$15 and place on the collection plate or bring to the office. Your copy will be sent to the church for you to collect.

Want To Keep in Touch?

If you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week, please email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au with your request to be added to the mailing list. The bulletin is also available on our Facebook page (Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton) and on our website www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au

Wisdom of the Heart: Contemplative Workshop Series 2024

This series is designed to energise and strengthen your spiritual journey and will suit both beginners and experienced practitioners of meditation and other disciplines. Workshops are held in a comfortable and peaceful local environment with access to parklands. Saturdays 12 and 19 October, 9 and 16 November from 2pm – 5.30pm at the Mercy Centre, 20 Union Street, Tighes Hill (Newcastle). All 4 workshops in this series: \$250 Waged or \$200 Concession. Individual workshops: \$75 Waged or \$50 Concession.

www.wisdomspiritualityservices.com.au

Mission: Transform Lives – Theirs and Yours

Are you ready to embark on a life-changing journey that combines your professional experience with meaningful community impact and living our faith in practice? Hear inspiring stories from Palms mission participants at our at our Discovery Online session. Explore unique opportunities matching your skills to sustainable solutions. Wednesday 9 October 2024 from 7:30pm – 8:30pm via Zoom. Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au





In Mongolia, vulnerable people requiring social services often face stigma for using them. Those in need are often impacted by domestic violence or homelessness. Unfortunately, support services are limited in number and the demand for them is growing.

This means some of our brothers and sisters in Mongolia are going without the help they need.

This month, we invite you to support the Church in Mongolia on their journey to provide more support for vulnerable people in need. Your kindness will ensure that more of our brothers and sisters can receive the assistance they need to get back on their feet.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mongolia

SCAN ME



What do you think the kingdom of God is really like?

Write or draw your answer



CHILDREN

How many words can you make from the letters in CHILDREN?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

gospel focus

Like a little child

Most of us at some time or another have been told to 'grow up'; 'stop acting like a child'; or to 'act your age'. It implies that, as we grow older, we have to behave in a more 'responsible' or 'mature' way than when we were children. Jesus turns this on its head and tells us that unless we 'welcome the kingdom like a little child' we will never enter it. The gospels are full of stories about people who call on God's mercy because they recognise that without God they are nothing. When they subsequently receive God's mercy or healing they welcome it all the more – like a little child.