



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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

3 November 2024

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who

are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 12:28-34
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B 1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16 2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28 Gospel: Mark 12:38-44
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, 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: Sterling Walsh Reeves, Finn Dowling, Mea Dowling, Ollie Rinkin (Branxton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Recently Deceased: Kenneth Wild

Anniversaries: Frank Tierney

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	<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	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 10 NOVEMBER 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	J Brackenrig
Commentator		K Ingold	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	SCAE LEADER REQD L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	C Anderson L Harrison	J Dunn M Jones	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		C Miller				

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
4 November <i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	5 November	6 November	7 November	8 November	9 November <i>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</i>	10 November <i>32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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>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>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Anointing 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.

Changes for November

Thank you to Fr John Tobin who will be saying Mass alternating with Greta and Branxton in November and thank you to Fr Priyantha Fernando who will be saying Mass in Singleton this coming Saturday morning.

The Parish Office will be CLOSED Thursday 7 November and Friday 8 November, CLOSED Tuesday 12 November, Thursday 14 November and Wednesday 20 November and OPEN Monday 25 November.

November – Month of the Holy Souls

In November we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us, family, and friends. However, it does not end there for we are asked also to pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. During November, Mass will be offered for those whose names have been written on the special “November Mass Envelopes”. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends clearly and place them in either collection basket during Mass. November Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the back of all churches.

November All Souls Mass Greta

All Holy Souls and those who have died this year will be remembered during Mass today, Sunday 3 November at St Catherine’s Church, Greta. There will be a chance for those in attendance to come forward and light a candle in remembrance.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group in Singleton will meet for their monthly lunch Tuesday 12 November from 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. The group welcomes any singles to join them for a chat over a meal.

St Patrick’s Women’s Guild

The St Patrick’s Women’s Guild will meet for their monthly meeting on Wednesday 13 November from 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. 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 in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant on Friday 15 November at 12pm and for Christmas on Friday 6 December at 12pm. Please bring a Kris Kringle gift for this one! The luncheons are a great way to make new friends and catch up with those you already know. For more information, please see Mercia.

Do You Have Super Computer Skills?

We are looking for someone to operate the laptop during Mass at St Brigid’s Branxton to project the PowerPoint presentation. If you have the skills to help with this ministry, please speak with Fr Thomas, Mercia or Sue at Mass.



The PowerPoint will be prepared at the Parish Office, so you will be responsible for connecting the laptop to the screens and clicking through the slides during Mass.

***‘Never see a need without trying to do something about it’
Saint Mary MacKillop***

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 at no cost to the traveller. 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. To make the hire worthwhile we need to get the bus filled. ***Please book as soon as you can!***

Thanksgiving Mass

Solomon will be offering a Thanksgiving Mass for the parishes of Singleton and Branxton on Saturday 30 November at 10.30am at St Patrick’s, Singleton, in recognition of all the support he has received. He looks forward to having parishioners from both parishes there.

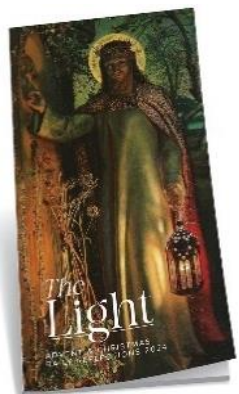
God’s Word Daily Reflections 2025

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.

To order, complete one of the marked envelopes available at the church, include your \$15 and place on the collection plate. Your copy will be sent to the church for you to collect. Copies can also be purchased directly from the Parish Office.

The Light: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2024

Embark on a spiritual journey of illumination this Advent and Christmas with ***The Light: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2024***, a comprehensive 88-page book of daily reflections designed to deepen your spiritual journey from the beginning of Advent (1 Dec 2024) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 Jan 2025), offering profound insights and contemplative thoughts that invite you to explore the depths of your faith and anticipate the joy of God’s presence in the world. ***Available at each church for \$5. Please use the envelope inside the booklet to pay.***



Pharmacy Intern Accommodation

Singleton Discount Drugstore has contacted the Parish Office to ask if any parishioners might have a room to let for one of their new Pharmacy Interns. She currently lives in Newcastle but doesn’t drive so needs accommodation in Singleton to be able to take up the internship (preferably in the township so she can walk or catch a bus). She is a quiet, reserved young lady and would suit living with an older couple or single lady. If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office for more details or drop into the Discount Pharmacy in John Street and speak with Carolyn Robinson or Will Gresham.



On behalf of the Church in Mongolia, and people like Chuluunbaatar, we would like to again thank you for your generosity.

Your gift is already working towards programs like the House of Mercy, which will support people that have been affected by a range of issues, such as homelessness and domestic violence.

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia. Your action will make a positive impact for many around the world.



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

SCAN ME



Month of the Holy Souls



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

- Bendeich and Standing families
- Janssen, Tierney and Nowlan families
- Miller and Winter families
- Family and friends of G Mc Millan
- Dunn and McShane families
- Family and friends of G Cattermole
- Family and friends of M Alsleben
- Gee and Nowland families
- Tope and Garner families
- Family and friends of K Cruz-Abenes
- Kellner and Bridge Families
- Family and friends of F & T King
- Family and friends of M Thomas



SACRISTAN

St Catherine's Church in Greta is looking for volunteers interested in the Ministry of Sacristan. Sacristans take responsibility for opening the church, turning on the lights and microphones, putting out the Missal and Lectionary and setting out items for Mass. They also care for the sacred vessels, cloths, books, altar breads, wine, candles, incense, baptismal items, and furnishings. They ensure all the necessary items are available and in their proper place before and after each Mass and everything is clean and stored until the next time the items are needed. Please see Lydia at Greta if you are interested.

Trivia Night

The **Combined Churches of Singleton** are hosting a trivia night on Friday 29 November from 6pm at Singleton Diggers York Street.

This is a fun event to raise much needed funds for Singleton's Combined Churches Scripture in Schools Program.

Everyone is invited to attend – get a table of 8 together at \$10 per person.

You can also donate gifts or money to be used for prizes on the night.

See the poster on the noticeboard for more information.



Aid to the
Church in Need



ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction.

Next Sunday, 10th November, we welcome to the Singleton parish an ACN speaker who will share with us the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.