

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

AUSTRALIA DAY

26 January 2025

First Reading **Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10**
A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Cor 12:12-14, 27**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. (SHORTER FORM)

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Luke 4:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



FRANCIS' FOCUS REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

'Today,' as Pope Francis point out, is the word Jesus uses to begin his preaching. Today. Not tomorrow. Not then. Today.

The Pope invites us to reflect on the eternal today-ness of Jesus' message. This day, now, even with the very word 'today' as recorded in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus still speaks to his people.

Today, therefore, Jesus is still proclaiming his word. It is a proclamation, the Pope says, 'that runs through all ages and always remains valid.' We members of the living Body of Christ are called to continue proclaiming the fulfilment of scripture in Christ.

On another occasion the Pope turned his attention to the passage that Jesus quotes, those resonant lines from Isaiah about bringing 'good news to the poor.'

'The poor are indeed at the centre of the Gospel', the Pope reminds us, attracting the notice of Jesus right from the very beginning.

'Let us ask ourselves,' the Pope therefore suggests, 'what does it mean to evangelise the poor? It means first of all drawing close to them, it means having the joy of serving them, of freeing them from their oppression, and all of this in the name of and with the Spirit of Christ.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Mary Bailey, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Jose De Sousa, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Liz Matt, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Allan Seque, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Colleen Torrington, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Callan Battye-Smith and Brooks Battye-Smith (Greta).</p> <p>Recently Deceased: Tony Hetherington, Jack Vipond (Tues 28/1 12pm Queen St Cemetery), Pat Halter (Fri 31/1 11am Singleton), Tatiana Chere (Tues 28/1 3pm Greta).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.	
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES The Presentation of the Lord, C 1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.</i>	

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>Principal: Mr Dave Crawford</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 2 FEBRUARY 2025						
	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 Woolley
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole			
Readers	P Conroy S Purdon	SCAE LEADER REQ L Gorczyca	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		M Ingold	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	
Offertory	M Thomas K Gould	C Miller A Humphreys	G Cattermole	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
27 January <i>St Timothy & Titus</i> <i>St Angela Merici</i>	28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	29 January	30 January	31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	1 February	2 February <i>THE PRESENTATION</i> <i>OF THE LORD,</i> <i>YEAR C</i>
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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.

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice

Communion in both species is now offered at all Masses in the Singleton and Branxton Parishes. To facilitate this, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are required for each Mass including weekdays.

New Rosters for Mass at St Patrick's Church

New Rosters are being prepared for St Patrick's. Please let us know if you still wish to be included on the roster by indicating on the sheet on the noticeboard if you wish to minister as Proclaiming the Word, Offertory Procession and we especially need Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. The new rosters will be printed this week to commence on 9 February 2025.

It's Fiesta Time!

The 2025 Parish Fiesta in honour of Santo Niño (the child Jesus), will be held on Sunday 2 February commencing with Mass at 10am in St Patrick's Church and then to the Civic Centre for celebrations. ***Please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you will be joining the lunch and entertainment.*** There will be raffles for the Fiesta on sale with 3 major prizes: a 12L Kitchen Couture Digital Air Fryer; 1 large Flylite Suitcase; a 5L 8-in-1 Multi Cooker as well as many other great minor prizes. For more information, please speak with Frieda King.

Prayers for the Sick

The Prayers for the Sick list will be cleared at the end of January. If you would like a name to remain on the list, please let the Parish Office know by 29 January 2025.

Feast, Light, Praise and Worship

Morning Tea will be provided after 10am Mass at St Patrick's Singleton on Sunday 26 January by the Feast, Light, Praise and Worship group. All are invited to stay for fellowship and a cuppa.

Morning Tea 7am Mass

Morning Tea will be provided after 7am Mass at St Patrick's Singleton on Sunday 26 January. All are invited to stay for fellowship and a cuppa.

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 1 February 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for Gwyneth and Ronald Lambkin, and all those whose anniversaries occur in January. We also welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday

150th Anniversary of St Catherine's College Singleton

2025 sees the 150th Anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy developing the catholic education traditions at St Catherine's College in Singleton. A group of past and present staff and students are continuing the historical documentation that Pam Como began. They would love anything and everything that you may have from 1974 to the present. These could include personal stories, memorabilia, uniforms, awards, newsletters or anything of personal significance relating to the school. All items will be returned. Please drop any items to the Parish Office during office hours, clearly labelled with your name and contact details.

The Great Warning Movie

Kotara Event Cinemas Monday 24 February 2025, 6.30pm. To buy tickets and read a synopsis the movie head to www.fan-force.com Under the Screenings menu, select The Great Warning - Kotara.

Happy India Republic Day – 26 January 2025



Happy Lunar New Year – 29 January 2025



Australia Day Blessing





SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

**THINK
U
KNOW**
.org.au

Are you staying safe online?

Here are some tips from the ThinkUKnow program



Question things

Not everyone online is who they say they are.

People can pretend to be anyone online so think critically and ask for help if you aren't sure.



Avoid oversharing

Keep personal information like your name, age, location or school private.



It is ok to say no!

You don't have to send anything you don't want to. Don't let anyone's persistence or threats change your response.



Report and block

If someone is communicating in an inappropriate way or making you feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, report to accce.gov.au/report.



Take screenshots of the chat and block the user.



Find help

Know who to go to and where to get help and support – nothing is ever so bad that you can't tell someone.