

Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

4 May 2025

First Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **(R.)**

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **(R.)**

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Revelation 5:11-14
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation –

everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.**
Alleluia!

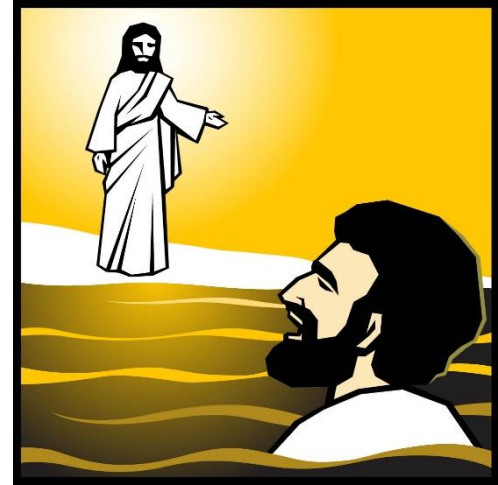
Gospel Jn 21:1-14
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (shorter form)

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

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



FRANCIS' FOCUS
REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Considering Peter's return to fishing, Pope Francis reminds us that Peter had long since left it behind to follow Jesus.

The episode shows us how easy it is to return to comfortable routines. 'It can happen to us too', Francis says, 'that, out of tiredness, disappointment, perhaps out of laziness, we forget the Lord and neglect the great choices we have made, to settle for something else.' Each of us faces the temptation to return to our fishing at some point.

But without Jesus in our lives our nets will always feel empty.

Sometimes being busy distracts us from what really matters. Perhaps, Francis says, 'we forget prayer, letting ourselves be wrapped up in our own needs.' Sometimes, he adds, 'we neglect charity, with the excuse of daily urgencies.'

Here Peter's swim is instructive. Professionally, it makes little sense. He reached Jesus first, yes, but had to return to the boat for some fish! Yet, as Francis reminds us, in plunging into the water Peter shows us that 'love goes beyond usefulness, convenience or duty.' Peter swam for joy!

What we might ask ourselves now, then, is: how can I respond to the call: 'It is the Lord!' Dare we dive in and swim, like Peter, and 'put out to sea again with Jesus'?

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| ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia. | We remember in our prayers: Sick: Sienna Baker, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Austin Hoffman, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Sharon Wood, Zoe. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers. |
| COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia. | |
| NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C 1st Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52 2nd Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14-17 Gospel: John 10:27-30 | Baptisms: Primrose Thorley, Arwen Thorley, Oliver Mackintosh (Branxton), Ella Yates (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God Recently Deceased: Brian Hebbe, Tony Ernst (Branxton Tues 6 May 10am). Anniversaries: Jeremiah Lynch, Ivan Meyn. |
| MYSTERY OF FAITH We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again. | 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 |

| 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: Allan Humphreys |
| 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 David Crawford | K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 | Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au |
| Rosary Park Catholic School | Principal: Mr Ashley Borg | K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 | Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au |

| MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Branxton Saturday 6pm | Greta Sunday 8.15am | Singleton Sunday 7am | Singleton Sunday 10am | Singleton Sunday 5pm | Counters 9.30am Tuesday |
| Welcomer | E Bendeich | D & J Clarke | C Langford | J Dries | J Dries | J Brackenrig |
| Commentator | | D Clarke | G Cattermole | VOLUNTEER | SCAE LEADER | |
| Readers | H Hartcher C Trunk | D Clarke | J Duldulao H Duldulao | M Stowe R James | T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen | |
| Prayers | | M Ingold | C Langford | F King | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | |
| Offertory | K Jones K Jones | C Miller Helena | M George J Dunn | J Cowley C Becus | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | |
| Extraordinary Minister | P Conroy | D Clarke | J Dunn | M Stowe | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | |

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 | | | | | | |
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| Monday 5 May | Tuesday 6 May | Wednesday 7 May | Thursday 8 May | Friday 9 May | Saturday 10 May St John De Avila | Sunday 11 May FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C |
| 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 Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm SCAE St Patrick's Singleton |
| | 10.00am Funeral Mass (Tony Ernst) St Brigid's Branxton | | 9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton | | 6.00pm SCAE 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.

Fr Thomas on Leave and Office Hours

Fr Thomas will be taking leave from 30 April and returning on 1 July. We wish him a safe and restful time away.

During this time, we welcome *Fr John Tobin* to our parishes to say Mass for us. *Fr Solomon Okovido* will also be saying Mass on some weekends in the Branxton Parish. We thank them both for their time and assistance.

The Parish Office will close at 1pm on Friday 9 May.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group will meet for their monthly luncheon from 12 noon on Friday 9 May at Miller Park Hotel. All are welcome.

Planned Giving Tax Receipt Request

Envelope and direct debit donors: Please pick up the envelope addressed to you at the back of the church and complete the form inside, returning by 31 May 2025. This form asks about your tax receipt needs for 2024/25 and your preferred donation method (envelope or direct debit) for 2025/26. If you're not currently part of our planned giving program but would like to be in 2025/26, please reach out to the parish office.

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. They are particularly looking for yearbooks from 1978-80, 1982-85, 1998-99, 2002, 2004 and 2015-2024.

All items will be returned after the exhibition. Please drop any items to the Parish Office during office hours, clearly labelled with your name and contact details.

Make an Impact – Volunteer Abroad!

Use your knowledge to build self-reliance for those with little opportunity. Join Palms online for a special session showcasing how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, from those who've done it before. Explore our unique opportunities and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime! Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events
Date: Thursday 22 May 2025 Time: 6pm–7pm 02 9560 5333
palms@palms.org.au

Register for Called and Gifted

Mission & Evangelisation is working with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the Called & Gifted Discernment Process this year. This will be a significant investment in the people of our Diocese as we grow our confidence in living and sharing our faith with others. This is a unique opportunity to journey together as a Diocese and will begin following Pentecost.

Discerning charisms communally enables parishes to thrive on the gifts of its people. Far from being “just another program”, this is a whole new way to look at our parishes. When charisms are discerned and understood, community members feel empowered, valued and develop a sense of belonging.

It is critical that participants are aware of, and fully commit to, the three-part process that involves workshops, a personal interview and in-depth sessions about using our gifts in the world. The Called & Gifted Discernment Process has been incredibly successful in a number of Catholic Dioceses across Australia. The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry will release a national statement on charisms in coming months re-enforcing our Diocesan commitment to mission and evangelisation into the future. Registration will close **9 May 2025** via this link <https://forms.office.com/r/1J9Q2eqVft> For more information, please contact our Mission & Evangelisation Partner Formation, Rose McAllister: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

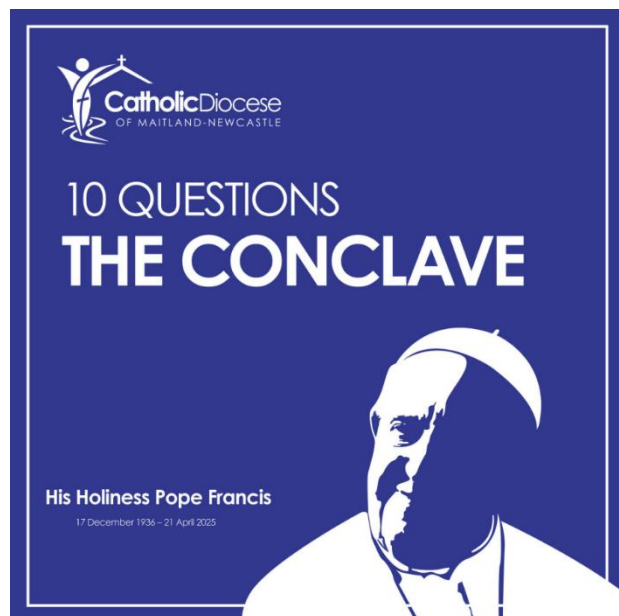
Diocesan Local Churches Pilgrimage

Our Jubilee Year is now well underway, and eight Local sites of Pilgrimage are open and ready for you. Pick up a passport up at any church along the way. Visit one or visit them all. Collect your stamp, and on each page, re-affirm the spiritual journey you've committed to this Jubilee Year. An indulgence is on offer with prayer, Eucharist and acts of mercy. We have a very special long weekend planned for you. If the idea of visiting all eight Local sites of Pilgrimage in the Diocese is a little daunting. Mission & Evangelisation has done all the hard work for you. In just a few weeks on Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May, we will journey with you over three days as each Church hosts mass, prayer, confession and good old-fashioned hospitality. This will be a chance to get your entire passport complete and meet countless new people along the way. Check out the Itinerary at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/diocesan-local-churches-pilgrimage/>

What Happens Next? The Conclave

The Conclave to select a new pope begins on Wednesday 7 May! Wondering how it all works? Who votes? How long does it take? What does the white smoke really mean? Find out in *10 Questions about the Conclave*, where everything you need to know about this extraordinary event is broken down.

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/10-questions-about-the-conclave> (also available on our Facebook page)



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING



Who can I tell if I don't feel safe?

- ▶ Mum or Dad
- ▶ Grandma or Grandad
- ▶ Aunty or Uncle
- ▶ Teacher or Neighbour
- ▶ Policeman or Doctor

Who else can I get help from

- ▶ Emergency – **000**
- ▶ Kids Helpline – **1800 55 1800**
www.kidshelpline.com.au
- ▶ Dept. of Communities & Justice
(formally FaCS) – **13 21 11**
- ▶ Lifeline – **13 11 14**

Office of Safeguarding

P 02 4979 1390

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au



UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent. ***If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass.***

Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us!

It's not too late to donate. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413



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THANK YOU!

