



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

The Epiphany of the Lord – Year A

5 January 2019

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it

means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

**We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



EXPLORING THE WORD

The key to understanding this highly symbolic gospel lies in the various actors' responses to Jesus. The wise men are not of the house of Israel; they are foreigners from the east. And yet it is they who recognise the signs and embark on a journey to find the newborn king and worship him. The opposite response comes from the very people who should know better. Herod, the Jewish political leader, and the chief priests and scribes, the interpreters of Scripture and the religious leaders, have not seen what is there before them and, when they do come to understand, they seek only to do harm to Jesus. This is the first hint of the harm that will ultimately come to him from the same characters much later in his life. They are not open to the revelation of God in this child.

Imagine the disappointment the wise men must have initially felt when they find a poor child born in a simple house instead of a mighty king. But they are open to the revelation of God and bow down before him. The expensive gifts of the wise men are highly symbolic: gold was presented to kings, frankincense was offered to God and myrrh used in anointing for burial. Thus they refer to the kingship of Jesus, his divinity and his salvific death.

- In what ways do you recognise the divine in the ordinary?
- How long have you been on your journey, and how much progress have you made?

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Baptism of the Lord- Year A

1st Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Mt 3:13-17



Mass Roster

If you are unable to attend Mass for your rostered time, please arrange your own cover. If you no longer wish to be on the roster, please contact the Parish office on 5507 4048.

Mass Roster Sunday 12 January 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
7am Singleton	C Crow J Walker		H Duldulao J Duldulao	M Spinks	C O'Connor J Cox	
10am Singleton	J Dries	J Patton	N Adler P Heher	F King		M Stowe A Grant
6pm Singleton	Janssen Family		H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen	E Janssen		
6pm Saturday Branxton			C Trunk S Trunk		S Farnham J Taylor	E Bendeich S Stafa G Jacobs
8am Sunday Greta			C Campbell K Ingold		E Winter	L Harrison C Miller J Clarke
Counters ST PATS	14 Jan	E Janssen	G Cattermole	Counting can be done from 9.30am at the Parish Office. If you are unable to attend please find someone to cover your counting.		

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Prayer Requests

The Sick: Ann Boyd, Bernadette Coffey, Victoria Diputado, Charlie Nichols, Anne Standing, Robert Walker, Sharon Wood.

Anniversaries: Pam Davy and Ann Payne. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.

Baptisms: Angus Gould (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.

Marriages: Simon Burke & Frida Skonare Bohlenius at Sisters of Mercy Chapel on Sunday 5 January 2020. What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Fr Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9653 Mobile: 0470 246 021	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9653	Email: anthony.coloma@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
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	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025

The Singleton and Branxton Parishes are on Facebook!



You can find us at: **Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton** OR www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish

Schools in our Parish

St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	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 Centre	Contact: Ms Charlotte Nichols	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: cnichols@stnicholasmn.org.au

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 January	Tuesday 7 January	Wednesday 8 January	Thursday 9 January	Friday 10 January	Saturday 11 January	Sunday 12 January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
<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> Anointing Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Reconciliation St Patrick's Singleton <u>6.00pm</u> Mass Broke	<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> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>5.30pm</u> Reconciliation <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick and St Paul, and- pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Mass. If you are new to 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.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians 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.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 7 January 2020.

New Rosters at St Patrick's Singleton

The new rosters took effect last week. Apologies for any confusion this may have caused but we were waiting for more volunteers to put their names on the rosters before printing. The new versions of the rosters are now on the noticeboard and there are lots of spaces to fill. Please consider placing your name in one of the ministries.

Hope Tree Group Donations

Boxes have now been installed in each of our Parish churches to receive donations for our Hope Tree Group Projects. Please see the noticeboard for more details of the projects.

2020 Sacramental Program

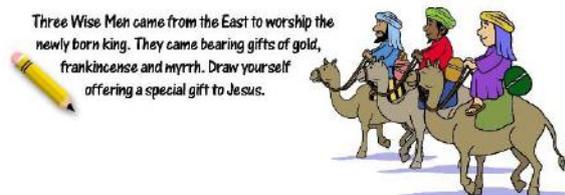
Children of the Branxton-Greta and Singleton Parishes interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2020 are asked to contact the Parish Office on phone 5507 4048 or email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au. Further details regarding the program and information meetings will be sent out in early 2020. Please share this information with any interested families.

2020 Catechist Mass

Bishop Bill invites you to an annual celebration of the wonderful work of catechists on Saturday 22 February at 2pm, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. Celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy.

Walk the Camino 2020

Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages: Portuguese Camino (May 2020) and Camino Francés (September-October 2020). Small group. Places limited. Phone Sr Veronica Rosier, OP (0451 387 906). www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020



Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

Building the Kingdom of God Together

Our baptismal call to be missionary disciples does not end with attending mass or saying our prayers. We have to be partners in the building up of the Kingdom of God as one body of Jesus Christ using our God-given gifts.

The stewardship campaign is to encourage you all to offer back to God your gifts of **time and talents and treasure** which He has given us.

The booklet gives a detailed explanation about stewardship. Included in the booklet is the "Self-Assessment Inventory", an aptitude test you can take to find out which ministry is suitable for you.

You will also receive a pledge card on which you can choose the ministries you want to serve and indicate your pledge to join the planned giving programme.

This Sunday, the Feast of Epiphany, will be celebrated in our parishes as **Stewardship Sunday**. On that day you'll be able to present to Jesus – just like the Magi – your gifts of **Time, Talents and Treasure**.

You can still take the stewardship booklet home, follow the instructions and consider ticking at least one item on the Pledge Card. Those who are already doing any of the ministries also can do it, ticking the ministry you are in or add others. You can return the pledge card by placing it in the box provided at the back of the church or taking to the Parish Office.

Let this be your gift to Jesus this year.



Eternal God,

*In wisdom and love you created our earth
to sustain us and give us life.*

*We turn to you now in faith, hope and love,
asking you to look with favour
on our drought-stricken land,*

on our starving animals, on our failing crops.

*Strengthen, sustain and give new heart
to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought;
be with those who support them.*

*In your loving providence,
send abundant rain and restore our parched earth.*

*Father of all compassion,
hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom the promise of new life has dawned,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
the Lord the giver of life:
Renew your faithful people;
Renew the face of the earth.*

*Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians
– Pray for us.*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

HAPPY ☆ NEW ☆ YEAR

As we begin the new year, we have to look back at the past year and then look forward to the new year with a new vision.

January takes its name from Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, who has two faces one looking backwards and one looking forward. Let us look backwards in the past year at how we have lived our Christian life. How much were we involved in the mission entrusted to us? And then, let us look forward to a year in which we will be active missionary disciples of Jesus.



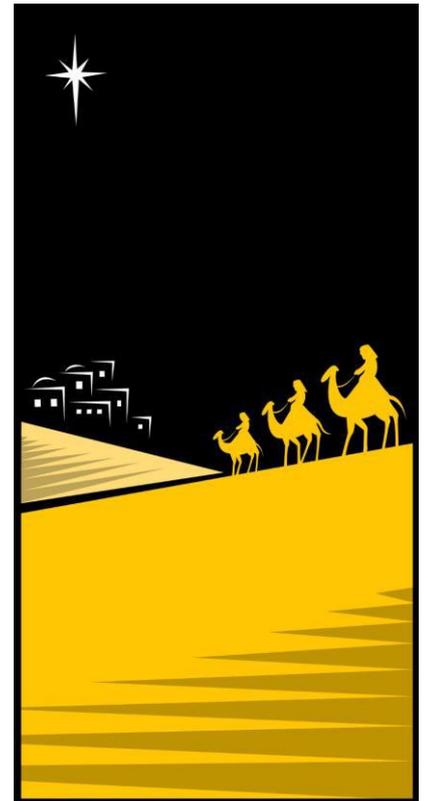
Fr Thomas and Fr Anthony wish you a very happy, fruitful new year.

Stewardship Sunday

We are celebrating the first Sunday of January, the Feast of Epiphany as **Stewardship Sunday**.

The Feast of Epiphany reminds us of the magi who came with their gifts searching for Jesus. *What about us? What do we have to offer to Jesus?* On this day we take our time, talents and treasure to Jesus.

Place your pledge card and deposit it in the box before mass and they will be brought forward during the offertory.



Help the three wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!

