



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

**The Baptism of the Lord – Year A**

**12 January 2020**

**First Reading**

**Is 42:1-4, 6-7**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul  
delights.

I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the  
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the  
cause of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed  
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the  
people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,

to free captives from prison,

and those who live in darkness from the  
dungeon.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 28:1-4, 9-10. R. v.11**

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with  
peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.  
**(R.)**

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Acts 10:34-38**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his  
household: 'The truth I have now come to  
realise' he said 'is that God does not have  
favourites, but that anybody of any  
nationality who fears God and does what is  
right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people  
of Israel, and it was to them that the good  
news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ  
– but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You  
must have heard about the recent  
happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of  
Nazareth and how he began in Galilee,  
after John had been preaching baptism.  
God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit  
and with power, and because God was with  
him, Jesus went about doing good and  
curing all who had fallen into the power of  
the devil.'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mk 9:8**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the  
Father's voice was heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Mt 3:13-17**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to  
be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade  
him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he  
said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus  
replied, 'Leave it like this for the time  
being; it is fitting that we should, in this  
way, do all that righteousness demands.' At  
this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up  
from the water, and suddenly the heavens  
opened and he saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove and coming down  
on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is  
my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on  
him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**EXPLORING THE WORD**

This text introduces Jesus in the first  
public moment of his adult life. It is  
significant that the public mission of  
Jesus begins with his baptism. He has  
made decisions about his future action,  
which begins with a long and arduous  
journey spanning the length of Israel from  
Galilee to the deep south. This is not a  
random act. Jesus makes that journey  
with a single purpose: 'to be baptised by  
John.' In light of Matthew's presentation  
of Jesus as the fulfillment and perfection  
of all that is good in Israel, the  
conversation between these two figures is  
fascinating. The Baptist recognises Jesus'  
greater role in God's plan. He has played  
the part of the Old Testament prophet in  
preparing the way. Now that the main  
player has appeared on the stage, is it not  
fitting that the Baptist bows out of the  
action? But Jesus is aware of a bigger  
picture and insists that things remain as  
they are 'for the time being' so that the  
demands of righteousness can be  
satisfied. Both Jesus and John show an  
openness to accept God's plan, and in  
reward, God himself enters the story with  
words of affirmation and love for the  
Chosen One. Heaven and earth have met  
in the person of Jesus.

- Jesus' mission grew out of a profound sense of being loved and chosen by God. You too have been chosen. What might your mission be?
- Look at the first reading from Isaiah. What insight does this provide in understanding your mission?

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Second Sunday in Ord Time- Year A

**1st Reading:** Is 49:3, 5-6

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 1:1-3

**Gospel:** Jn 1:29-34



**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 19 January 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
<b>7am Singleton</b>	C Crow J Walker		D Thompson C Spiteri	J Cox		J Dunn M Jones
<b>10am Singleton</b>	R Gee R James	N Marzol	M Worden	B Drayton	Baptism Family	M Stowe M Dagg T Wells
<b>6pm Singleton</b>			L Gresham L Gresham	E Hand		
<b>6pm Saturday Branxton</b>			M Thomas S Hartcher		C Trunk Family	G Jacobs C Trunk J Partridge
<b>8am Sunday Greta</b>			D Clarke M Ingold		N Ernst M Peters	L Harrison C Campbell T Dagg
<b>Counters ST PATS</b>	<b>14 Jan</b>	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

**Sick:** Anne Boyd, Bernadette Coffey, Victoria Diputado, Janice Haines, Pat Holz, Charlie Nichols, Anne Standing, Robert Walker, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas, Ann Payne, Alf Thomas, Sheila Simpson. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Francisca F David and Merv Clayden. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Wedding Anniversary:** Cecily and Michael Agnew celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020. **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

## Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	<b>Fr Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9653 Mobile: 0470 246 021	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Assistant Priest	<b>Fr Anthony Coloma</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9653	Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au">anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Secretary	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
Singleton	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
Branxton	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	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](http://www.facebook.com/SingletonBranxtonCatholicParish)

## Schools in our Parish

St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Centre	Contact: Ms Charlotte Nichols	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:cnichols@stnicholasmn.org.au">cnichols@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 13 January	Tuesday 14 January	Wednesday 15 January	Thursday 16 January	Friday 17 January	Saturday 18 January	Sunday 19 January 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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  11.00am Anointing Mass Mercy Nursing	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass 9.45am Reconciliation 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		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	8.00am 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 be closed on Friday 31 January 2020.

## New Rosters at St Patrick's Singleton

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

Donations received have covered Project 2 and Project 3. Esta Samweli received \$300 towards her tuition and Rosa Pascali received \$200 towards her business. Boxes have now been installed in each of our Parish churches to receive donations for our Hope Tree Group 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](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au).

**Information meetings** will be held in Singleton at St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 5.30pm and in Branxton at St Brigid's Church on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 5.30pm.

## Thank You!

To all those who donated towards the Christmas celebration decorations in St Patrick's Church, please accept our sincere thanks. Donations enabled the team to purchase floral displays and other items to make the church look beautiful.

## 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](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020)

## Property for Rent



### 4/16 Cambridge Street, Singleton St Patrick's Commercial Centre

- Popular position with great street exposure.
- 694sqm on two levels with reception area, meeting/training rooms, open office area plus individual office spaces. Includes air conditioning and 19 off street car spaces.
- Rent \$90,000 PA + Outgoings \$8,600 PA + GST.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Allan Cruickshanks from LJ Hooker Singleton on 0407 724 930.







## Our annual Parish Fiesta in honour of Señor Santo Niño (Holy Infant Jesus) is on again!!

Please join us on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
Celebrations will commence with 10:00am Mass  
St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

Then join the procession to Singleton Civic  
Centre, Queen Street for lunch and  
entertainment!

Please RSVP on or before **5<sup>th</sup> February**  
for catering purposes  
by placing your name in the sheet provided  
at the back of the church

Draw a line to connect each symbol with its correct meaning.

	<b>Candle</b>	<i>Symbolizes the Holy Spirit</i>	
	<b>Water</b>	<i>Symbolizes life, cleansing and growth</i>	
		<i>Symbolizes purity and freedom from sin</i>	
		<i>Symbolizes the emergence from darkness into the light</i>	

# The Sacrament of Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is the first of the sacraments of initiation. It is only through Baptism that one becomes a Christian and a member of the Church. In Baptism we are freed from original sin, brought into a new birth in the Holy Spirit and received into the Body of Christ, the Church!

Baptism is a loving gift from God that leaves an indelible (permanent) mark on our souls so that just as in the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders we can only receive it once. If Baptized as an adult the sacrament also has the effect of the forgiving of all personal sins, incurred up to that point, as well as original sin, so the newly Baptized can be viewed as one who is truly born again indeed! As in all of the sacraments Baptism is a special communication from God to us in the form of the grace that is bestowed upon us, we become adopted sons and daughters of God through the Baptismal character. In Baptism we are also given a great responsibility as well, to live our lives justly as true children of God by following the great commandment handed down by our Lord and Savior Himself, to love our God with all of our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The rite of Baptism itself is a beautiful expression of the Faith and communicates to the faithful various aspects of the way that we, as God's people, interact with Him in the sacraments. Besides the three fold pouring of the water over the recipient's head and the necessary formula of Baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit there are various sacramentals involved in the ritual.

The sign of the cross, at the beginning of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to him and signifies the grace of the redemption Christ won for us by his cross.

The anointing with the oil of catechumens along with the prayer that is said renounces Satan allowing the person or their parents and sponsors to be able to confess the faith of the Church, to which one is "entrusted" by Baptism.

The anointing with sacred chrism, perfumed oil consecrated by the bishop, signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian, that is, one "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king.

The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ," has risen with Christ.

The lighting of the baptismal candle from the Easter candle symbolizes the "light of faith" which the Baptized should always keep "burning" in their heart and a reminder that they are to be "the light of the world."



*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.*