



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

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A**

**Australia Day**

**26 January 2020**

**First Reading**

**Is 32:15-18**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Once more there will be poured on us  
the spirit from above;  
then shall the wilderness be fertile land  
and fertile land become forest.  
In the wilderness justice will come to live  
and integrity in the fertile land;  
integrity will bring peace,  
justice give lasting security.  
My people will live in a peaceful home,  
in safe houses,  
in quiet dwellings.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.9**

**(R.) The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Cor 12:4-11**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are

the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt 5:9**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Happy the peacemakers:**  
**they shall be called children of God.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Mt 5:1-12**

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

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

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

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**REFLECTION**

**South Land of the Holy Spirit**

The Beatitudes we just heard are at the beginning of the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. This sermon provides a picture of a society where the usual expectations of how people relate to each other are overturned.

Australia is a place to which people have been attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in their society of origin.

De Quiros, the Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for ‘Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo’, South Land of the Holy Spirit.

I am convinced that ‘Australia’ is a work of the Holy Spirit. One of whose most distinctive works at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic and language barriers between people.

Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is creating a new society. Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No. Treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful, and is not yet fully remedied as the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

But, we could pause for a moment and thank God

For our land abounding in nature’s gifts of beauty rich and rare.

For the divine Spirit of Pentecost attracting us to follow Jesus in this South Land of the Holy Spirit.

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples,  
among the nations sing psalms to you,  
for your mercy reaches to the heavens,  
and your truth to the skies

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and never forget his benefits.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Presentation of the Lord- Year A

**1st Reading:** Mal 3:1-4

**2nd Reading:** Heb 2:14-18

**Gospel:** Lk 2:22-40



**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 2 February 2020						
Time	Welcomer	Commentator	Readers	Prayers	Gifts	Extra-ordinary Ministers
<b>7am Singleton</b>	C Crow J Walker	G Cattermole	E Thomas J Tindale	M Spinks	G Cattermole	G McMillan M Walker M Alsleben
<b>10am Singleton</b>	D Jarrett S Wheeler	R Gee	R Price	T Wells	Baptism Family	T Cochrane A Cochrane
<b>6pm Singleton</b>			A Borg C Davey	K Davey	Children's Liturgy	
<b>6pm Saturday Branxton</b>			M Young M Thomas		K Jones K Jones	E Bendeich G Jacobs J Partridge
<b>8am Sunday Greta</b>			L Pozywio K Ingold		J & G Wilton	L Harrison T Dagg J Clarke
<b>Counters ST PATS</b>	<b>28 Jan</b>				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, Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Janice Haines, Pat Holz, Billy Lewis, Charlie Nichols, Anne Standing, Craig Standing, Robert Walker, Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Alice Coe, Cecil Crouch, Percy Nowlan, Norman Pease, Carmel and Harold Phipps and Kathleen Thomas. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

## Parish Contacts

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<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>
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	<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>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<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>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	<b>Contact: 02 5507 4048</b>
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	<b>Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299</b>
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	<b>Contact: 6577 6168</b>
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	<b>Contact: 0407 381 525</b>
<b>Greta</b>	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	<b>Contact: 0428 485 025</b>

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

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

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>27 January</b>	<b>28 January</b> <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	<b>29 January</b>	<b>30 January</b>	<b>31 January</b> <i>St John Bosco</i>	<b>1 February</b>	<b>2 February</b> <b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>9.45am</u> <b>Reconciliation</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>5.30pm</u> <b>Reconciliation</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>

**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, Friday 7 February 2020 and Friday 21 February 2020. Items for the Bulletins need to be with the office by 12pm on Wednesday.

## **Anniversary Mass St Patrick's**

All are welcome to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass to be said on Saturday 1 February 2020 at 9.20am at St Patrick's Church, Singleton. Our prayers will be for the souls of

- ✠ Pam Davy
- ✠ Margaret Holz
- ✠ Margaret Horne
- ✠ Christopher Horne
- ✠ Chloe Ledger
- ✠ Katherine Partridge
- ✠ John Ryan
- ✠ Phyllis Sampson
- ✠ Daphne Wild

## **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.

## **With an Everlasting Love**

The Parishes of Branxton, Greta and Singleton will hold a Lenten Scriptural Program during the Season of Lent. We will gather every Wednesdays of Lent from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm at the Parish Office in Singleton to break open the Old and the New Testaments. This year's Lenten Bible Study will be facilitated by Fr. Anthony Coloma and would start on Ash Wednesday (25 February 2020). Everyone is invited. Please register your interest through the Parish Office.

## **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)

## **Vinnies Bush Fire Appeal Collection**

A bucket collection will be taken up at Mass this weekend, Sunday 26 January, to aid the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal.

Bushfires are currently devastating several communities across Australia. Hundreds of homes have been lost, livelihoods destroyed and tragically, some people have lost their loved ones. Vinnies is on the ground helping people as they deal with the immediate aftermath of fires, and we will continue to be there as they rebuild their lives in the long term.

With your help, Vinnies can provide food, clothing, essential items and grocery vouchers; help pay unexpected bills and people work through the recovery process; make referrals to a range of other organisations for emergency accommodation and specialised services; give much needed emotional support as well as practical assistance to pick up the pieces after homes are lost.

This emergency is unprecedented, and frighteningly, it is forecast to get even worse. Please donate urgently so Vinnies can be there for everyone needing our help. You can also donate online at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>

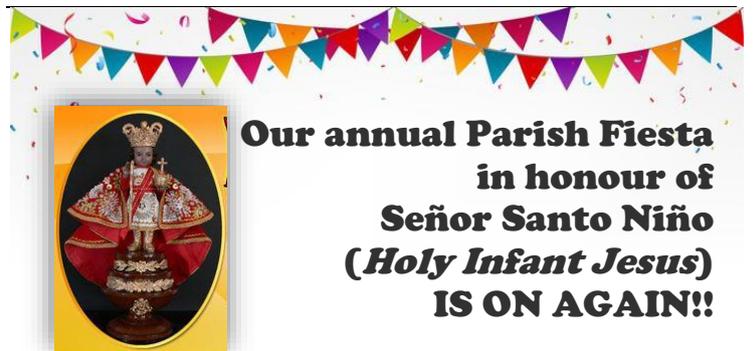
## **Property for Rent**



### **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!!**

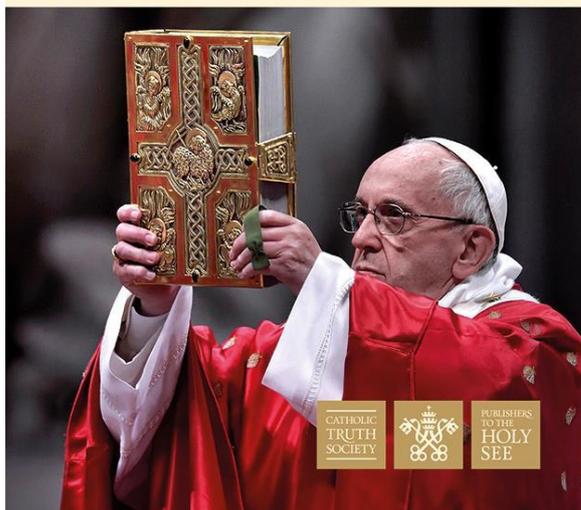
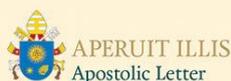
Please join us on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
Celebrations will commence with 10:00am Mass  
St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

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

## Sunday of the Word of God – 26 January 2020

# POPE FRANCIS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



On the feast of St Jerome in 2019, Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time be marked and celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. It was in Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit illis*, where he outlined his vision for the said celebration. The Sunday of the Word of God was to be devoted "to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." Francis invited local communities to find ways to "mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity." He suggested that the sacred text be enthroned "in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's Word."

Francis concluded by defining what he describes as "the great challenge before us in life: to listen to Sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy." "God's Word," Francis wrote, "has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity."

In solidarity with the universal Church, the Parishes of Branxton-Greta and Singleton will mark this Sunday, **26 January 2020**, as the **Sunday of the Word of God**.

Our Parishes will enthrone the Scriptures during Mass and commission our Readers on that day too. We bring our community together to celebrate with the whole Church in placing the Scriptures in the centre of our daily lives. For as St Jerome had aptly written: "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

### What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

### The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures...

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit's work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit's inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

### Commissioning the Readers of our Parishes!

All Readers will be commissioned this Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, during Mass. In Singleton, Readers are asked to nominate the Mass they will be attending, indicating this on the sheet on the noticeboard. Readers in Branxton and Greta are asked to attend Mass on this day. You will be asked to come forward after the Homily to be commissioned.

### Position Vacant – Bishop's Office Support Officer

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has a unique and exciting opportunity for an outstanding, professional administrative Superstar to join the Bishop's Office. This position will provide high quality administrative support, will assist with organising and coordinating events and functions amongst other duties and responsibilities. There is also an opportunity to develop, in time, into the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop/Manager Bishop's Office. This is a permanent full-time position.

If you have a personal vocation to participate in the life of the Church? If you are an experienced and highly professional administrative superstar looking to serve the Bishop and the Church using your unique skills and talents? If you are innovative and adaptable to an ever changing environment and you able to develop strong relationships with stakeholders then we would love to hear from you. For more information about the role, including the position description visit

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions-vacant/> or you can contact the Executive Assistant to Bishop/Manager Bishop's Office, Elizabeth Doyle on 4979 1109.

### To Apply

Please go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions-vacant/> and click on the job link, then click on Apply Now. To be considered for the position please provide a copy of your current resume and a cover letter individually addressing each of the essential criteria. \*Please note that not adequately addressing the selection criteria will result in your application not being shortlisted.\* Applicants may be required to undertake a national police check, hold a current employee Working With Children Check, complete a health assessment declaration, hold a current NSW driver's licence, and must have the ability to work within Australia. Applications close 11.59pm Wednesday, 29 January 2020.