

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

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

15 November 2020

First Reading

Prv 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers
grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor, she
opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the
woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have
worked for, and let her works tell her praises
at the city gates.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

You will not be expecting us to write
anything to you, brothers, about 'times and
seasons', since you know very well that the
Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief
in the night. It is when people are saying,
'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst
suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour
pains come on a pregnant woman; and
there will be no way for anybody to evade it.
But it is not as if you live in the dark, my
brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a
thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons
of the day: we do not belong to the night or
to darkness, so we should not go on
sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay
wide awake and sober.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Live in me and let me live in you, says
the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 25:14-30

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:
'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his
way abroad who summoned his servants
and entrusted his property to them. To one
he gave five talents, to another two, to a
third one; each in proportion to his ability.
Then he set out. The man who had received
the five talents promptly went and traded
with them and made five more. The man
who had received two made two more in the
same way. But the man who had received
one went off and dug a hole in the ground
and hid his master's money. Now a long
time after, the master of those servants
came back and went through his accounts
with them. The man who had received the
five talents came forward bringing five more.
'Sir', he said 'you entrusted me with five
talents; here are five more that I have
made.' His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and faithful servant; you have shown
you can be faithful in small things, I will
trust you with greater; come and join in
your master's happiness.' Next the man with
the two talents came forward. 'Sir,' he said
'you entrusted me with two talents; here are
two more that I have made.' His master
said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful
servant; you have shown you can be faithful
in small things, I will trust you with greater;
come and join in your master's happiness.'
Last came forward the man who had the
one talent. 'Sir,' said he 'I had heard you
were a hard man, reaping where you have
not sown and gathering where you have not
scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off
and hid your talent in the ground. Here it
is; it was yours, you have it back.' But his
master answered him, 'You wicked and
lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where
I have not sown and gather where I have
not scattered? Well then, you should have
deposited my money with the bankers, and
on my return I would have recovered my
capital with interest. So now, take the
talent from him and give it to the man who
has the five talents. For to everyone who
has will be given more, and he will have
more than enough; but from the man who
has not, even what he has will be taken
away. As for this good-for-nothing servant,
throw him out into the dark, where there
will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Befriending Time

*God's plan for human happiness is mostly
frustrated by a good person burying his or
her personality traits, what one might call
one's talents, which is really to bury oneself
and to become invisible.*

*In the old language of my schoolboy
catechism, we should be concerned not just
with sins of commission, but with sins of
omission – failure of courage, failure to
take risks, failure to put everything on the
line with the personality and the moment in
time given to you and to me.*

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

*'There is a tide in the affairs of men
which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune;*

*omitted, all the voyage of their life
is bound in stillness and in miseries.'*

*The Divine Tide is flowing through human
history. We should trust ourselves to that
tide which can carry us to the shores of
Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish
stillness and miseries.*

*We could pause for a moment to pray that
we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well
done, good and faithful servant ... come and
join in your Master's happiness.'*

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, A

1st Reading: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Mt 25:31-46



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Bill Damstra, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, Anne Standing, Alan Thomas, John Thomas, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Hal James. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Ann Akers and Lillian Jordan. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Alby Brown and Walter Jones (St Brigid's Branxton, Saturday), Colby Knight (St Patrick's Singleton, Sunday). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Fr Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9650	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
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		singletonbranxton@parish_sb
		YouTube	
		Twitter	
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
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
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	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025

Schools in our Parishes

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 Singleton	Director: Ms Saleena Rosee	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Trudy McGovern	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

Mass Roster Sunday 22 November 2020

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer		D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	L & P Boyce	J Brackenrig	
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole		H Rapp	
Readers	M Thomas M Porter	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		M Ingold	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	P Bridge	J Walker H Standing	M Petrie		
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						NO Ministers of Communion are required.

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.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
16 November <i>St Margaret of Scotland</i> <i>St Gertrude</i>	17 November <i>St Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	18 November <i>Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles</i>	19 November	20 November	21 November <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	22 November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
8.00am Mass	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 Mass Mercy Home	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		NO MASS		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 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

Our Churches Are COVID Safe

Our churches are registered COVID Safe businesses with NSW Health. A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms (even if they are mild):



- Fever (37.5 ° or higher)
- cough
- sore/scratchy throat
- shortness of breath
- loss of smell
- or loss of taste

HAVE YOU CHECKED IN? Please ensure you have had your name marked off, or added to, the registration list for today.

Registering for Mass

Please phone the Parish Office or email your name and contact phone number to register for Mass by 12pm Friday if you have not ticked that you are attending next week on the registration sheet at Mass.

Mass Changes

Mass will not be said on Thursday 19 November 2020 at St Brigid's Branxton as Fr Thomas and Fr Anthony both need to attend a meeting.

St Brigid's Parish – Branxton Roster

The current roster for St Brigid's Branxton ends at the end of December 2020. Since COVID many of our faithful volunteers have been unable to return to Mass so for 2021 we are compiling a new Roster. If you would like to be involved, please see the sheet at the back of the church and put your name down. Please note all positions will be vacant and we will start afresh for the New Year. The job of Welcomers is to hand out bulletins, welcome people and ensure they are registered. Proclaim the Word are readers of the 1st and 2nd readings and psalm. The offertory ministers are to carry the collection plates and place under the Altar as an offering. Please give consideration over the next few weeks. All are welcome including children who have received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. For more information, please contact Mercia Thomas.

Caritas Typhoon Relief Appeal

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia who have been devastated by unprecedented flooding after two typhoons hit the region in one week. Homes have been destroyed and livelihoods lost across the region. **Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.**

Christmas Mass Times

With the changes that 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to our Parishes, Christmas Mass will need to look a little different this year if current restrictions remain in place. Anyone wishing to attend Mass will need to register for their ONE nominated Mass time by 12pm on Wednesday 23 December 2020. Sheets are available at each church to start registering from this weekend.

St Brigid's Church Branxton will have Vigil Mass at 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 24 December.

St Catherine's Church Greta will have Mass at 8am on Christmas Day.

St Patrick's Church Singleton will have Vigil Mass at 6pm, Midnight Mass at 12am and Mass on Christmas Day at 10am. Mass in Singleton will be live-streamed and those who don't fit in the church will be able to stand in the church yard and watch online or listen via the speakers. Communion will be offered from the doors for those outside.

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable adults – particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes, in our diocesan systemic schools, early education centres and out-of-school hours care service, as part of our welfare and community services through CatholicCare and other diocesan ministries. Bishop Bill Wright and his senior leadership groups, clergy and laity, are committed to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle meeting the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards ('Standards') and for that compliance to be tested by external audit, which should occur in late 2021. The Standards are a direct consequence of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Final Report Volume 6. There are 10 standards, with each standard consisting of various numbers of criteria and each criteria having a number of indicators to demonstrate compliance. The auditing process determines whether a 'Church Authority' (the Diocese) meets each individual criterion and indicator. Most of the criteria and indicators need to be addressed both 'centrally' by the Diocesan Curia (e.g. Shared Services, the Chancery and the Office of Safeguarding) and 'locally' in each parish.

*The Parish will be asking for your help to achieve these standards in the audit. It may be that as a volunteer you need to attend a session of **Safeguarding in Parishes**, or that you need to complete volunteer paperwork. We ask that you assist the Parishes in aiming for a high standard of Safeguarding. For more information and feedback visit www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au/safeguarding/.*

Hello Hunter Is Here to Support You!

Hello Hunter is an initiative that partners with churches to mobilise volunteers to help people in need, regardless of their faith background, commitment, or other social standing or identity. Volunteers are available to make a friendly call, deliver essentials, assist in finding specialised help, and pray with you on request. You can call Hello Hunter on 4948 6837, send a Facebook message, email help@hellohunter.org.au or fill out the online 'Help Request' form at info.hellohunter.org.au

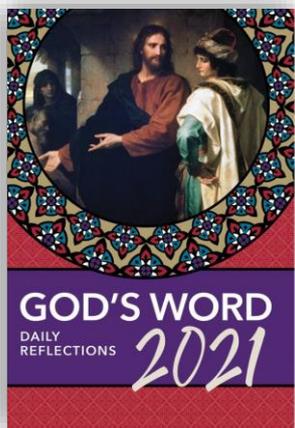
Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment. See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCHES

Please see the noticeboard in each church for a full set of instructions which have been derived from a directive from the Office of the Bishop and will be in place to allow Public Mass to be celebrated in our Parishes, along with a copy of the COVID Safety Plan. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This notice can also be found on the Parish website www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au and the Parish Facebook Page 'Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton'.

In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 80 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 75 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 45 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta. Please ensure you have registered as you entered the church.



Reflection Resources: Now Available

GOD'S WORD: DAILY REFLECTIONS 2021

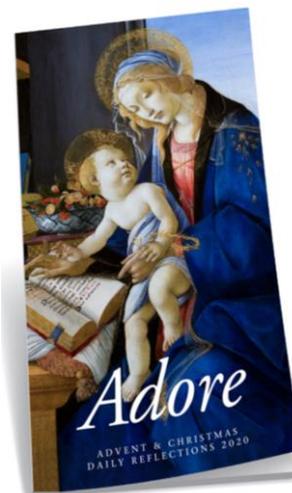
Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection.

\$15 PER BOOK – USE ENVELOPE INSIDE BOOK TO PAY

ADORE: ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS 2020

Adore is an 88-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (29 November 2020) through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2021).

\$4 PER BOOK – USE ENVELOPE INSIDE BOOK TO PAY



*If you miss out on a copy, please contact the Parish Office.

Remembering Our BELOVED DEAD

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*



Mass will be offered in November for:

- The Stafa and Bendeich families
- Leo Bendeich, Adrian Stafa, Cec, Flo and Bob Crouch
- Family and friends of A and A Standing
- The Thomas and Enright Families
- The Rapp and Brittliffe Families
- The Holz, Martin and Gallagher families
- Family and friends of R James
- Family and friends of C Crow
- The Gresham and Nott families
- The O'Connor and Buxton families
- The Vella and Gardiner families
- The Dagg, Slattery and Sylvester families
- The Boyce and Burston Families

November Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or are included with the planned giving envelope sets. Please place these in the offertory baskets to have a Mass said during November.