

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

6 December 2020

First Reading **Is 40:1-5, 9-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to
her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for, that she has
received from the hand of the Lord double
punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a
way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across
the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain
and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a
plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory
of the Lord shall be revealed and all
mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of
Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8**

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and
grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

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 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 **2 Pt 3:8-14**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must
never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can
mean a thousand years, and a thousand
years is like a day. The Lord is not being
slow to fulfil his promises, as anybody

else might be called slow; but he is being
patient with you all, wanting nobody to be
lost and everybody to be brought to change
his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like
a thief, and then with a roar the sky will
vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall
apart, the earth and all that it contains will
be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like
this, you should be living holy and saintly
lives while you wait and long for the Day of
God to come, when the sky will dissolve in
flames and the elements melt in the heat.
What we are waiting for is what he
promised: the new heavens and new earth,
the place where righteousness will be at
home. So then, my friends, while you are
waiting, do your best to live lives without
spot or stain so that he will find you at
peace.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Lk 3:4, 6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Gospel **Mk 1:1-8**

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

The beginning of the Good News about
Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in
the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist
appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of
sins. All Judaea and all the people of
Jerusalem made their way to him, and as
they were baptised by him in the
river Jordan they confessed their sins. John
wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived
on locusts and wild honey. In the course of
his preaching he said, 'Someone is following
me, someone who is more powerful than I
am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo
the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you
with water, but he will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Two Gospels

John immersed, baptised, his followers in
water, symbolising the washing away of
the sins of the *past*. But he could not
empower people by drenching them in the
dynamic life of God. John anticipates
'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have
the power to inundate, baptise, people
with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we
know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ,
Son of God' who came to flood our lives
with that Divine Power which can effect a
completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel'
(good news) which was used on
inscriptions announcing an Emperor's
birth or victory, and used it to describe his
inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus
Christ, which was to inaugurate the
'Kingdom of God', overcoming the
pretensions of all Emperors of any kind
throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank
God for the Good News of our being
baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the
Father and of the Son and of the *Holy
Spirit*.'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which comes to
you from God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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: Veronica Cox, Kathleen Markham, Ray Martin, Josephine McShane and Paul O'Connor. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Sophia McFadden (St Brigid's Branxton, Saturday) and Macy Deakin (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 13 December 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	J Dries	Janssen Family	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	J Patton		
Readers	J Stafa M Porter	L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao		T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	S Farnham J Taylor	P Bridge	C O'Connor J Cox	M Pease		
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
7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 December <i>St Juan Diego</i> <i>Cuahtlatzoatzin</i>	10 December <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	11 December <i>St Damasus I</i>	12 December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	13 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B
8.00am Mass	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	8.00am* Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	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	*TIME CHANGE	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 checked in using the Guest Track QR Code or 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.

Changes to Mass times

Mass at St Patrick's on Friday 11 December will be said at 8am instead of 9.20am.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Christmas Lunch

The Guild will hold their Christmas lunch at York Street Diggers on Wednesday 9 December at 12 for 12.30pm. Please bring a gift for the Kris Kringle to the value of \$10. RSVP Elaine Thomas on 0432 870012 or Gisella Cattermole on 0421 783 066.

St Patrick's Parish Christmas Bereavement Mass

Mass will be said in St Patrick's Church, Singleton on Friday 18 December 2020 at 9.20am to remember those loved ones who we have lost this year. Families will be sent an invitation from the Ministry of Care Team.

St Brigid's Parish – Branxton Roster

The current roster for St Brigid's Branxton ends at the end of December 2020. A new roster for 2021 is being compiled. 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. For more information, please contact Mercia Thomas.

Christmas Mass Times

Anyone wishing to attend one of these Mass times will need to register by 12pm on Wednesday 23 December 2020. To register please phone the Parish Office on 5507 4048 or email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au with the names and contact numbers for all attending. Registration sheets will be available at Mass each week.

St Brigid's Church Branxton will have Vigil Mass at 6pm ONLY (8pm Mass has been cancelled) 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, 8pm 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.

Restrictions for religious services will be loosened as of Monday 7 December, from 1 person per 4m² to 1 person per 2m² doubling those allowed in the church. The table below shows how many spaces are left indoors at each Mass for Christmas.

Singleton 6pm – 2	Singleton 8pm – 132
Singleton Midnight – 116	Singleton 10am – 129
Branxton 6pm – 68	Greta 8am – 58

Donations for Christmas Decorations

If you would like to contribute towards the decorating of St Patrick's Church for Advent and Christmas, please speak with Frieda King or the Parish Office.

Reflection Resources 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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Vinnies need your help again this year. A giving tree has been placed at the rear of St Patrick's Church and Vinnies are seeking gifts for boys and girls. If it's more convenient to donate a gift card, please do so. There are tags on the tree for the various age groups. Please have all gifts in by Friday 11 December to ensure all can be wrapped and distributed in time for Christmas. All donations will greatly reduce Vinnies' costs. For more information, speak to Col Fogarty or Tony King.

Parish Promoter of Safeguarding

To comply with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, **EACH PARISH IS REQUIRED** to have a "Promoter of Safeguarding". This person would have direct ongoing contact with the Parish Priest and they have the responsibility of maintaining a consistent and ongoing cycle of working with the Parish's Safeguarding Implementation Plan (SIP) and most importantly ensuring that the Parish's work on the SIP is kept to the fore of the Parish leadership's priorities. Promoters of Safeguarding will receive direct support from the Office of Safeguarding including development and promotion of peer networks between parishes and regions and regular consultations and training. Copies of the position description are at the back of the church, for more information please speak to Fr Thomas.

Make a straight path for the Lord

ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCHES

Please see the noticeboard in each church for a full set of CONDITIONS OF ENTRY 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 or checked-in as you entered the church.**

Advent Wreath Prayers *Second Sunday of Advent*



The Presider, or an assistant, lights the second candle, which can be named the John the Baptist Candle.

John the Baptist was the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who described you as a 'shepherd feeding his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms'. The Plenary Council invites us to be a Humble, Healing and Merciful community. Like the shepherd may we be people with arms outstretched in love.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, you will come again. St Peter reminds us to live holy and saintly lives while we wait and long for the Day of God to come. Waiting can be filled with anxiety. The unexpected can be frightening. Help us to live in the Spirit always.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, you call us to baptism in the Holy Spirit. Be with us as we 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying' throughout the journey of the Plenary Council.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Rosters for Christmas Mass

Helpers are needed for Christmas Mass!

Ministries where volunteers are needed: Readers of the Word of God, Readers for the intercessions, Welcomers, Offertory Procession and a person to play the music (live or recorded). If you are able to help, please use the roster at the top of each Christmas Registration sheet at the church.



Diocese COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey

Last week saw the launch of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle **COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey**. This is an important opportunity to voice your liturgical insights and experiences during COVID-19. What were the liturgical challenges and opportunities you experienced during COVID-19? To complete the survey click on the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy>

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

For more information and details about the importance of the survey, go to Liturgy Matters

To complete the survey go to:

[surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy)

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

What liturgical growth needs fostering?

What suggestions do you have for our liturgical response in future crises?

What were the liturgical challenges and opportunities you experienced during COVID-19?

What liturgical insights and questions do you have as a result of your experience?

What did you find helpful? Unhelpful?

What could we let go of?

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live



www.mn.catholic.org.au