

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

The Baptism of the Lord, Year B

10 January 2021

First Reading

Is 60:1-6

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.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

A Whisper echoing Heaven

Jesus was immersed in the Waters of the
River Jordan as though he were a
repentant sinner. Why? Jesus wanted to
be identified with the mass of sinful
humanity. During this great act of
solidarity, Jesus clearly had a mystical
experience as He emerged from the
waters: the Heavens opening, the Spirit
descending *like* a dove, and hearing a *bat
qol*, a whisper echoing Heaven.

Each of us has been incorporated into Our
Lord's Baptism. At whatever age we
received Baptism, the Heavens were
opened and Divine love and power
streamed from Heaven to earth. The Holy
Spirit, Divine Lover of humanity, hovered
gently. Deep down, at the intimate
wellspring of life, the Divine Voice was
heard: 'You are my beloved daughter' or
'You are my beloved son, my favour rests
on you.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that
we might wake up each morning with that
Divine Voice ringing in our ears, and then
re-echoing it in our lives.

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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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1st Reading: 1 Sm 3:3-10, 19

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: Jn 1:35-42



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

Baptisms: Harrison Conder (St Brigid's Branxton, Saturday) **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	<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	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 17 January 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	R Gee R James		
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	K Ingold	D Thompson C Spiteri		Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	C & A Trunk	J Gorczyca				
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
11 January	12 January	13 January <i>St Hilary</i>	14 January	15 January	16 January	17 January 2nd SUNDAY ORD TIME, YEAR B
<u>8.00am</u> Mass	<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> Mass Mercy Home	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<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>8.15am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

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 with our conditions of entry. 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. In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 15 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

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 your name on the registration list or used the QR code to check-in today!



The office will be CLOSED from 1-10 January 2021 – reopening on Monday 11 January at 9am. For any urgent matters while the office is closed please contact the Presbytery on 6578 9650.

Other changes to office hours are: 11 January and 13 January will be open 9am-12pm only. Office will be open Monday 18 January 9am-3pm and CLOSED Thursday 21 January.

Changes to Mass times

Mass in Greta will be said at **8.15am** (instead of 8am) on 10, 17, 24, 31 January and 7 February 2021.

Singing at Mass

Members of the congregation can join in singing during Mass, however, it is **recommended** that anyone over the age of 12 wear a mask while doing so. Singing during the celebration of Mass or other liturgies remains a high-risk activity, particularly when undertaken as a group or a community.

Message from the Council for Catholic Women (CACW)

As 2020 draws to a close there is much to look forward to for the women of our Diocese. Earlier this year the Council of Catholic Women (CACW) was disbanded hence members of the former Diocesan contact group have been challenged with keeping our women informed and included in future directions as we embark on a new beginning.

To that end some members of the former contact group have written to Bishop Bill in the interest of forming a Diocesan Council for Women. Whilst awaiting a response, a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 11 February 2021 at 4pm in the Toohey Room. **Please enter this date in your diary** as our vision is to include all Diocesan women through conversations, visits or Zoom to all parts of the Diocese and interest groups that are inclusive, reflective and fun.

The annual Magdalene Awards will take a break in 2021 but will be replaced by a celebration of Women in our Diocese. On Sunday 7 March – International Women's Day, we have invited Bishop Bill to celebrate the 9.30am Mass at the Cathedral to mark this occasion. Hopefully we can all come together for a morning tea, but this will depend on Covid-19 restrictions. Parishes will also be invited to recognise women in their mass centres through prayer and hopefully hospitality.

Have a happy and holy family Christmas and when you put up your 2021 calendar or upload electronically, remember to circle 11 February 2021 as the change of direction for Diocesan women.

Reaching Beyond 2020

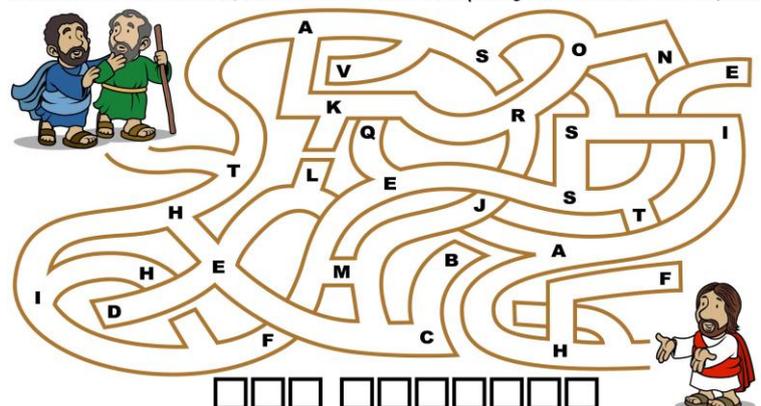
People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions 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

Christian Formation Course 2021

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units. Commencing on Tuesday February 2, 2021, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

If you would like to enrol in the Christian Formation Course in 2021 go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

As Andrew leads Simon to Jesus, enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal who they find.



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 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta. Please ensure you have registered as you entered the church.

GOSPEL FOCUS

A matter of fact approach

Unlike the other synoptic gospels of Matthew and Luke, the gospel of Mark includes no infancy narrative or genealogy of Jesus. It begins with John the Baptist proclaiming the coming of Jesus and the baptism scene takes place in just the ninth verse of the gospel. The gospel of Mark is something of a no-nonsense gospel. It is the shortest of the four and moves very swiftly through the events in Jesus' life. Just as Jesus emerged from the crowd to be baptised by John in an unremarkable manner, so too, the approach of the gospel throughout is very matter of fact.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Mark and Isaiah

Today's first reading from Isaiah 42 begins with the very words that come from heaven during the baptism of Jesus in the gospel. It comes from the first of four passages from the book of Isaiah that are known as the Servant Songs. The Servant Songs in Isaiah provided a great deal of inspiration to Mark. The imagery and even specific language used in Isaiah to describe the messiah who will come is scattered throughout the gospel of Mark and subsequently the other gospels as well. Mark's depiction of Jesus as the messiah is characterised by the image of the suffering servant.



Have you thought? Baptism

Whilst today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is also a reminder and celebration of our own Baptism. Today's gospel is a reminder that we are baptised with the Holy Spirit not merely with water. To be baptised with the Holy Spirit means that we are drawn into communion with God and we are also empowered by that communion to make a difference in the world – to reach out a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the good news of Jesus through our actions and our words.

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.



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



www.mn.catholic.org.au

RE ; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Dear, Fr Thomas and the Christians I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank you and all Christians for contribution to the project of Electricity for Bene Maria community at Kasangezi Parish in Kigoma diocese. We acknowledge we have received total of 1,669,786.72 Tanzanian sh, for buying electrical devices and installation of electricity at Kasangezi parish. Thanks to all Christian and parish at Large May God bless you abundantly." Then the voice said from heaven this is my own dear son with whom I am pleased". Mt 3:17. Have a joyous CHRISTMAS and Prosperous

New Year 2021.

Regional superior of bene Maria sisters

Sr Theophila Saba.

