

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

**Third Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**12 December 2021**

**First Reading Zep 3:14-18**  
**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes, word will come to  
Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 R. v.6**

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and Holy  
One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his  
name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the  
peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of  
Israel. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Phil 4:4-7**  
**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the  
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your  
happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to  
everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no  
need to worry; but if there is anything you  
need, pray for it, asking God for it with  
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of

God, which is so much greater than we can  
understand, will guard your hearts and  
your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;**  
**he sent me to bring Good News to the**  
**poor.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lk 3:10-18**  
**A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Luke.**

When all the people asked John, 'What  
must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone  
has two tunics he must share with the  
man who has none, and the one with  
something to eat must do the same.'  
There were tax collectors too who came  
for baptism, and these said to him,  
'Master, what must we do?' He said to  
them, 'Exact no more than your rate.'  
Some soldiers asked him in their turn,  
'What about us? What must we do?' He  
said to them, 'No intimidation! No  
extortion! Be content with your pay!'  
A feeling of expectancy had grown among  
the people, who were beginning to think  
that John might be the Christ, so John  
declared before them all, 'I baptise you  
with water, but someone is coming,  
someone who is more powerful than I  
am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of  
his sandals; he will baptise you with the  
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is  
in his hand to clear his threshing-floor  
and to gather the wheat into his barn; but  
the chaff he will burn in a fire that will  
never go out.' As well as this, there were  
many other things he said to exhort the  
people and to announce the Good News  
to them.

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



**REFLECTION**  
**by Fr Michael Tate**

*I want you to be happy*

*Some people have an image of God who must be obeyed out of fear. Rules of behaviour are kept as part of a deal to avoid punishment. But St Paul was imitating God when he told the Philippians that all he wanted was their 'happiness'. God's deepest desire is that we share divine bliss. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that the goal of human life is this beatific happiness.*

*Of course, there is a way of life which responds to the Divine Lover. John the Baptist insists on rules of social justice, particularly those which forbid taking advantage of the vulnerable. But these are the minimum. He envisages a response of extravagant generosity. It will take Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire to make this possible.*

*This was effected by the One foretold by John. He doesn't name him, but we know it was Jesus of Nazareth who had the power to unleash such over-the-top generosity. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost as if in wind and fire. This created a new community which, the Acts of Apostles tells us, responded with acts of unrestrained generosity to the vulnerable and needy.*

*We might pause for a moment to pray for a generous spirit responding in gratitude to the Divine Lover who, as Risen Lord, has the power and will to enable us to be filled with Divine Bliss.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Say to the faint of heart:

Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come,  
and he will save us.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

**1st Reading:** Mt 5:1-4

**2nd Reading:** Heb 10:5-10

**Gospel:** Lk 1:39-45



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Sr Mary Markham, Mick McCrone, David Patton, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, Arlo Spicer, Anne Standing, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Recently Deceased:** David Axsentieff. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Anniversaries:** Jack Tierney, Lucian Gorczyca, Mary Cox, Birondo Family. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Louis Price and Linus O'Nions (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**Marriage:** Giuseppe Tarzia and Maya Wysynski (Mon 13 Dec, Singleton). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

**Parish Contacts**

Parish Priest	<b>Fr Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	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 9650	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>
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Patrick's Parish</b>			
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
<b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>St Brigid's Parish</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

**Schools in our Parishes**

St. Catherine's Catholic College	<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>
Rosary Park Catholic School	<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>
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<b>Director: Ms Ferne Owen</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<b>Director: Ms Natalie James</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	R Gee R James		
<b>Commentator</b>		K Ingold	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
<b>Readers</b>	P Conroy S Trunk	L Pozywio	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	L Gresham V Gresham	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Harrison	P Boyd	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
<b>Offertory</b>	C Trunk A Trunk	P Bridge	R Nowland D Nowland			
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						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 ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

**WEEKLY MASS DIARY**

Fr Thomas & Fr Anthony are available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at each Mass. Please speak with the priest before Mass.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13 December St Lucy	14 December St John of the Cross	15 December	16 December	17 December	18 December	19 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C
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	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton	11.00am Mass Mercy Nursing Home	6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.00am Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – 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.

## **Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 7 December. Thank you for your understanding.

The office will be closed for two weeks after Christmas from 27 December and re-opening on 11 January 2022. Any items or anniversaries for the bulletins on 26 December, 2 January and 9 January need to be with the office by Wednesday 22 December to ensure they can be included.

## **God's Word 2022**

Unfortunately, St Paul's Publications have sold out of God's Word books for 2022 so we are unable to get more copies. There are copies at the office for \$15. Please call the office.

## **'Blessed' – Advent Reflections**

Copies of the Diocese of Wollongong advent reflections book "Blessed" are available in churches this weekend for \$4.00 per book. Please leave the money when you take a book.

## **Farewell to Fr Anthony Coloma**

Fr Anthony will be leaving our Parishes to take up the position of Chaplain for Catherine McAuley Catholic College in Medowie and San Clemente High School Mayfield and as the Rector of St Christopher's Oratory Medowie. He will take up his position after the 17 December 2021. A farewell to wish him well will be held on Wednesday 29 December 2021 at 6.30pm (location to be advised). If you would like to attend please place your name on the list at the back of the church by Wednesday 22 December.

## **Senior Singles Lunch**

The Senior Singles group will meet for their Christmas lunch on Tuesday 14 December at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Please bring a Kris Kringle gift to the value of \$10 to give on the day.

## **Morning Tea at Greta**

As the Covid restrictions are due to be lifted on 15 December, a morning tea will be held after Mass on the morning of 19 December in the St Catherine's Greta meeting room. If you are able, please bring along some food to share. All are welcome.

## **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.

## **WonderWhite Bread Bag Donations**

St Catherine's Catholic College would like to thank everyone who donated their bread bags in the Recycling Wonder White promotion. The college were able to purchase some agility balls for the primary classes to use in during their sport lessons.

## **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 up to 12 years of age. 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 Sunday 19 December to ensure all can be wrapped and distributed in time for Christmas. All donations will greatly reduce Vinnies' costs.

## **Parish Fiesta Raffle**

Our Sto. Nino Fiesta is fast approaching and with this mind, we will now start selling raffle tickets. Proceeds will be donated to St. Patrick's Parish for religious articles for the church. Tickets are \$1.00 each and available at Mass or at the Parish Office. The draw will take place at our Parish Fiesta on Sunday 13 February 2022.

Major prizes:

- Circulon Non-stick Triple Skillet Pack Value- \$399.95
- Eufy (Anker) Homevac S11 lite cordless stick vacuum cleaner Value - \$399.00
- Living Essentials 6 Lt Multi-Function Pressure Cooker
- Kenwood Blend - Fresh 2L Blender Value - \$129.00
- And many more consolation prizes!!!

## **Caritas – Global Gifts**



You can make a **big difference** to the lives of people experiencing poverty. When you buy a Global Gift, your loved one gets a special card and you help raise much-needed funds for vulnerable communities around the world.

Your **gift of water** can help give vulnerable communities improved access to clean water for drinking, hygiene and sanitation. Your **gift of education** can help support adult literacy and numeracy classes to help break the cycle of poverty. Your **gift of food** can help vulnerable families like Maria's to avoid hunger and put food back on their table.

Buy for Christmas at <https://www.globalgifts.org.au/gifts/>

## **Ordination Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation of Solomon's Ordination, those who were able to attend and those who donated toward Solomon's gift card from Harvey Norman. It was a beautiful celebration and a very special day for our Parishes to be able to share with Solomon.

Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass.



G F A Y I H I Q K  
F T M W J O Q G W  
D G P V Z Z U F I  
Z G W A T E R I N  
Z G X P K F T R E  
Q E S L U Q H E N  
Q D K C R O S S X  
Q A Q K U G H M B  
N C A N D L E B J  
B H B R E A D D Q

# Advent Wreath Lighting THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The presider lights the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.

Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Zephaniah as the who will exult over us and renew us by your love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you revealed to Paul that if there is anything we need we just have to ask for it with prayer and thanksgiving.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, as declared by John the Baptist, you will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.



## Christmas Mass Times



### SINGLETON PARISH

#### Christmas Vigil Mass

**6.30pm** St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

#### Christmas Midnight Mass

**12.00am** St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

#### Christmas Day Mass

**10.00am** St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton

### BRANXTON PARISH

#### Christmas Vigil Mass

**6.30pm** St Brigid's Church, Station Street, Branxton

#### Christmas Day Mass

**8.00am** St Catherine's Church, Branxton Street, Greta

## Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass. Can be removed to receive communion.
2. If you are sick or have been a contact of someone with COVID- stay **HOME** and get tested.
3. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
4. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
5. **SANITISE** your hands when you enter.
6. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
7. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
8. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.
9. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST** and maintain 1.5m physical distancing.



## Shalom World TV is now available via our website



**SHALOM WORLD** is a Catholic, commercial-free, 24/7, HD family entertainment channel, reaching out to the world with the Truth and Peace that can only be found in Jesus Christ! Amidst the sea of secular media offering lies and sins disguised as freedom and rights, we know that you are searching for something more for yourself and your loved ones. Let SHALOM WORLD be your source of informative, inspirational and vibrant entertainment, reaching out to everyone everywhere.

You can access the service from the front page of our website by clicking on the purple SW icon. Go to [www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au](http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au)