

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

First Sunday of Advent, Year C

28 November 2021

First Reading Jer 33:14-16
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*

His ways are faithfulness and love

for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;

to them he reveals his covenant. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 3:12-4:2
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

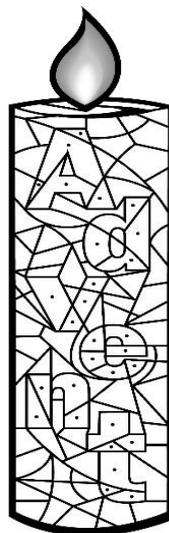
Gospel Lk 21:25-28. 34-36
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Color the shapes that contain dots purple. Fill the other shapes with different colors.



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

The Coming of our Saviour

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now.

In some instances, we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime, each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad of other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ has come, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.

In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

1st Reading: Bar 5:1-9

2nd Reading: Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6



Prayer Requests

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

Recently Deceased: Mario Bugeja (Sydney) and Neville Cavanagh. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Anniversaries: Nellie Phipps, Alice Ryan, John Spinks, Adrian Stafa. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Sullivan Hurn (Branxton). **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		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
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
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 Ferne Owen	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Natalie James	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	L Sneesby Tooth	D & J Clarke	C Crow	D Jarrett S Wheeler		
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilus	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg J Borg	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	T Wells		2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	T Ernst	G Cattermole			
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 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
29 November	30 November ST ANDREW, APOSTLE	1 December	2 December	3 December St Francis Xavier	4 December St John Damascene	5 December SECOND 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 10.20am Holy Hour St Patrick's Singleton	10.30am Diaconal Ordination Solomon Okovido Singleton (ticket holders only)	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		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.

Diaconal Ordination - Cancellations



If you have a ticket to the Diaconal Ordination of Solomon Okovido on Saturday 4 December 2021 at 10.30am and are now not able to attend, please let Erica know as soon as possible.

Please keep Solomon in your prayers as he prepares for his Ordination.

Mass Changes

There will be no public Mass in Singleton on Saturday 4 December due to the Diaconal Ordination of Solomon Okovido. Only ticket holders are able to attend this Mass.

St Brigid's Church Cleaning Roster

St. Brigid's Branxton are currently preparing their church cleaning roster for 2022. There are a couple of vacancies with some people stepping aside. If you can help, please call Sue McAlister on 4938 1864. You will be rostered on monthly but with a couple more volunteers we will only have a turn twice a year.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday 10 December at the Royal Federal at 12pm. To add to the festive spirit, we ask you to bring a gift, to the value \$15, for a 'Kris Kringle'. All welcome. Names to Helen 49381467 by 6 December.

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. We apologise to those who have missed out.

'Blessed' – Advent Reflections

Copies of the Diocese of Wollongong advent reflections book "Blessed" will be available from next weekend for \$4.00 per book.

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/>

Mass for the Holy Souls

'It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins.' Mac 2:12, 46.

Mass will be offered for:

- Edna and Ken Wilton
- Members of the Coffey and Partridge families
- Adrian Stafa

First Friday Adoration – St Patrick's Church



Adoration of the Holy Eucharist will be held on the first Friday of the month after Mass at St Patrick's Church, Singleton. Everyone is invited to stay for an hour, to place yourself in the presence of Christ, giving thanks for all the blessings God has given you and expressing your sorrow for your sins.

'Waiting with a Purpose' – Online Advent Reflection

As we continue our Synodal journey, an Advent resource *Waiting with Purpose* has been created for our Diocese. *Waiting with Purpose* responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. *Waiting with Purpose* invites us to deepen our Advent experience by inviting participants into an encounter with Christ in the Sunday Gospels. Mystagogical Reflection will be used to guide us into this personal encounter and to reflect on it to find the meaning Christ reveals for life and conversion.

A choice of sessions is available each week. Each group is limited to eight participants.

- Mondays 10–11.30 AM
- Mondays 4–5.30 PM
- Wednesdays 6–7.30 PM
- Thursdays 4–5.30 PM

Zoom link and *Waiting with Purpose* Advent Reflection resource are available after registration. For more information and registration visit: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129

Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. Wear a **MASK** to Mass. It can be removed to receive communion.
2. If you are sick or have been a casual contact of someone with COVID – stay **HOME** and get tested and isolate until you get your result.
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.



Thank you for keeping our community safe

A CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: *CONFIRMATION & HOLY COMMUNION*

Congratulations to the following children who became full members of the St Brigid's Branxton-Greta Community this weekend:

Friday 26 November, 6pm

Victoria Adams
Rubi Barnes
Bryce Bogacz
William Crick
Marcus Filipuzzi
Stephen Goode
Layla Hedger
Sophia Hedger
Brookly Johansen
Kiera Libreri
Olivia Libreri
Sharni Lyttle
Sam Richards
Ella-Grace Walpole
Edward Walters
Stella Walters
Holly Wilson

Saturday 27 November, 10.30am

Jeremy Campbell
Robert Campbell
Lexi Dagg
Lucas Dagg
Cameron Dobos
Sabine Donkin
Archer Kowalski
Ryder Lewis
Ebony Manning
Asha Messenger
Abigail Parkes
Madeleine Parkes
Emily Porter
Le Phan Nhat Quynh
Amelia Saxy
Caleb Swan



Advent Wreath Lighting **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan **has been revealed** in Christ, **is now revealed** in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ **will be revealed** in his glory at the end of time.

For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament, we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he comes in glory to judge the living and the dead. This year we will also anticipate and pray for the process and outcomes of the Plenary Council.

The Presider blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water.

Presider: Let us pray:
May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism.
During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds.
May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord now and for all time.



The first candle is lit. This candle is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you come among us now as we read the prophet Jeremiah's words who promised that there shall be honesty and integrity in the land.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, that we may love one another and the whole human race as you did.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, we must stay awake as you will come again as the Son of Man.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.