

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

5 December 2021

First Reading

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ

Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

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

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

We are John the Baptists

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare our hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les mercifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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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 C

1st Reading: Zep 3:14-18

2nd Reading: Phil 4:4-7

Gospel: Lk 3:10-18



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, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Recently Deceased: Elaine Nowlan and John Gilbert. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Anniversaries: Mary Bonser (Bercini), Veronica Cox, Ray Martin, Kathleen Markham, Josephine McShane. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Cameron Graham and Anna Deaves (Singleton). **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 12 DECEMBER 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries	Janssen Family	
Commentator		K Ingold		J Patton	E Janssen	
Readers	S Stafa J Stafa	L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao	T Cochrane M Stowe	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J Partridge	J Gorczyca	C O'Connor B Thompson			
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
6 December <i>St Nicholas</i>	7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	9 December <i>St Juan Diego</i> <i>Cuauhtlatotzin</i>	10 December <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	11 December <i>St Damasus I</i>	12 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C
<u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i> <u>11.00am</u> Mass <i>Elizabeth Gates</i>	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>Singleton</i> <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>Broke</i>	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's</i> <i>Singleton</i>
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's</i> <i>Greta</i>		<u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's</i> <i>Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's</i> <i>Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's</i> <i>Greta</i>

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 Thursday 9 December. Please have items for the bulletin to the office by Wednesday 8 December 2021. Thank you for your understanding.

Mass Time Change

Mass in Singleton on Wednesday 8 December will be said at 9am instead of 9.20am.

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.

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.

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. There are limited copies at the office for \$15. If you would like one, 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.

Share the Dignity Campaign

Thank you to everyone who supported the Share the Dignity campaign in Branxton last week. Along with donations from Greta Pharmacy Sue and Gail were able to deliver 12 packs to Bunnings for women and girls in need.

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/>

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!!!

'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

10,000 Decades for Healthcare Workers

Our nurses, doctors, paramedics, and mental health workers are the human face of the battle against the pandemic. As with any battle, there is a toll that is paid by those on the frontline; in this case it is the toll of long hours, dealing with sickness, sharing the experience of grief with families, and holding up those for whom this period has weighed heavily. Now here is your opportunity to support and hold in prayer those engaged in front-line healthcare. The University of Notre Dame Australia's Campus Ministry Team has developed a link on their webpage that allows people to log when they prayer a decade for these healthcare workers. The goal has been set for 10,000 Decades by Wednesday 8 December (The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception). Here is a link to the web page including a running tally: https://www.notredame.edu.au/events-items/10000-prayers-decade/health-workers/_nocache

Please join us as we pray for all Frontline Health-Care Workers, in thanksgiving for all that they do for us!

Advent Wreath Lighting SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The second candle is lit. This candle 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 Baruch when he proclaimed that God will show your splendour.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you will bring us to the perfect goodness for the glory and praise of God

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you call us to repentance and to prepare the way for you so that all humankind shall see the salvation of God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.



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

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus

