

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**19 December 2021**

**First Reading** **Mi 5:1-4**  
**A reading from the prophet Micah.**

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth  
gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will  
come back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he  
will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be  
saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your  
name. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** **Heb 10:5-10**  
**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the  
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or  
sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of  
the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want  
what the Law lays down as the things to be  
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the  
oblations, the holocausts and the  
sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure  
in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am  
coming to obey your will. He is abolishing  
the first sort to replace it with the second.  
And this will was for us to be made holy by  
the offering of his body made once and for  
all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** **Lk 1:38**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**I am the servant of the Lord:**  
**may his will for me be done.**  
**Alleluia!**

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

**A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Luke.**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she  
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.  
She went into Zechariah's house and  
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child  
leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled  
with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry  
and said, 'Of all women you are the most  
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb. Why should I be honoured with a  
visit from the mother of my Lord? For the  
moment your greeting reached my ears,  
the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,  
blessed is she who believed that the  
promise made her by the Lord would be  
fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



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

**Life in the Womb**

*This little gospel story tells us that 'the  
baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not  
merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this  
just poetic hyperbole?*

*We know that beautiful music can have a  
wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good  
vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus,  
being carried by Mary in her pregnancy,  
had a wonderful effect on the life carried  
by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.*

*From the moment of the conception of  
Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to  
all human beings. The good news is that  
you and I and every human life ever  
conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord  
Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as  
Original Blessing.*

*There is a further and consoling truth.  
Every mother or father who has lost a baby  
too early needs to know that the same  
extraordinary sense of Our Lord's  
presence was felt by your baby. That Divine  
Presence conferred a powerful Original  
Blessing on that little life within the womb,  
and that same Presence accompanied  
your baby into the everlasting embrace of  
Divine Love in Heaven.*

*We could pause a moment to pray using  
the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:*

**Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.**

**Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of  
our death. Amen.**

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a  
Saviour.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a  
son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

**1st Reading:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

**2nd Reading:** Col 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Lk 2:41-52



# 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.**

**Anniversaries:** Gordon Wright, Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas, Veronica Cox, Leo Holz, Ray Holz, Dulcie Standing and Marjorie Bendeich. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Maureen Bailey. **May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.**

**Baptisms:** Méabh Linklater (Branxton), Bobby Newman and Eriyah-Lee Brittliffe (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

**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>			
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>			
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 26 DECEMBER 2021**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	Volunteers	D & J Clarke	C Crow	P & L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
<b>Commentator</b>		D Clarke	G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	L Gorczyca	E Thomas J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
<b>Prayers</b>		D Clarke	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
<b>Offertory</b>	Volunteers	G Wilton	H Standing	M Petrie & Helper		
<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
<b>20 December</b>	<b>21 December</b> <i>St Peter Canisius</i>	<b>22 December</b>	<b>23 December</b> <i>St John of Kanty</i>	<b>24 December</b>	<b>25 December</b> THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)	<b>26 December</b> HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR C
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.30pm Vigil Mass Midnight Mass St Patrick's Singleton	10.00am Mass Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
5.30pm Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton	6.30pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	8.00am Mass St Catherine's Greta	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.

## **Changes to COVID-19 Restrictions**

Reduced COVID-19 restrictions are now in place from 15 December 2021. When attending a Place of Worship, you will still need to check in using the Service NSW QR code or place your name on the sheet. Face masks are no longer required however, NSW Health **strongly advise** people wear a face mask where they cannot socially distance. The density limits have been removed meaning that there is no limit to the number of people who can be in the church, but with threat of the virus currently active in our community it is advisable to maintain social distancing. Please continue to monitor for any symptoms and stay home if you are unwell or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

With the changes, there is no need to register for Christmas Mass.

## **Preparing the Way: Reconciliation for Advent**

You are invited to prepare for the Christmas season by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation at liturgies to be held in Branxton on Monday 20 December at 5.30pm and in Singleton on Tuesday 21 December at 5pm.

## **Holiday Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed for one week after Christmas from 27 December and re-opening on 4 January 2022. Any items or anniversaries for the bulletins on 26 December and 2 January need to be with the office by Wednesday 22 December to ensure they can be included.

## **Changes to Mass times**

With Fr Anthony leaving our Parishes, there will be some changes to Masses. From 2 January 2022, Sunday Mass in Greta will be said at 8.15am. Some Masses will be replaced with Liturgy of the Word (Communion) with Deacon Solomon. Any changes will be reflected in the Weekly Mass Diary.

## **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.

## **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 6.00pm at Singleton Diggers. If you would like to attend, please place your name on the list at the back of the church by Friday 24 December.

## **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.

## **God's Word 2022**

St Paul's Publications have sold out of God's Word books for 2022 so we are unable to get more copies. However, 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.

## **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.

## **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/>

## **St Brigid's Caritas Message**

***May Peace and Kindness be yours at Christmas  
and throughout the New Year***

Thank you to all for your support through another different year. Mercia on behalf of St. Brigid's Caritas Groups.

## **Fruits of First Plenary Council Assembly Published**

The fruits of the first general assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia have been gathered in a new report that contains dozens of proposals to shape the ongoing Council journey. The published document reveals the directions of the small groups' discernment at the Plenary Council in October and offers them as a basis for the ongoing preparation for the second assembly. You can access the document at: <https://bit.ly/FirstAssembly>



# Advent Wreath Lighting **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The fourth candle is lit. This candle is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Micah as coming from the house of David and who will rule over all Israel and be peace.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you make us holy by the offering of your body made once and for all.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you are the blessed fruit of the womb of she who believed that the promise made to her would be fulfilled.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.



## Christmas Mass Times



### SINGLETON PARISH

#### Reconciliation

Tuesday 21 Dec, 5.00pm, St Patrick's Church, Singleton

#### 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

#### Reconciliation

Monday 20 Dec, 5.30pm, St Brigid's Church, Branxton

#### Christmas Vigil Mass

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

#### Christmas Day Mass

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

*As COVID restrictions have eased, there is no cap on the number permitted at Mass.*

*You do not need to register to attend Christmas Mass.*

## DE-CODE ELIZABETH'S MESSAGE

Use the key below to find out what Elizabeth said to Mary.

A - 20	F - 25	K - 19	P - 17	U - 5
B - 12	G - 1	L - 22	Q - 26	V - 4
C - 6	H - 3	M - 14	R - 2	W - 13
D - 10	I - 9	N - 11	S - 15	X - 21
E - 18	J - 24	O - 7	T - 8	Y - 23
			Z - 16	

20 15 15 7 7 11 20 15 9 3 18 20 2 10  
 23 7 5 2 1 2 18 18 8 9 11 1  
 14 23 12 20 12 23 12 18 6 20 14 18  
 3 20 17 17 20 20 11 10 14 7 4 18 10  
 18 9 8 3 9 11 14 18

## Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. It is highly recommended by NSW Health to wear a **MASK** at Mass.
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. Where possible, maintain **1.5m physical distancing**
7. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
8. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
9. **SINGING** is permitted at Mass.

