

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

**Nativity of the Lord**

**Christmas Day**

**25 December 2021**

**First Reading**

**Is 52:7-10**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3**

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen  
the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R.)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

**Heb 1:1-6**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

At various times in the past and in various  
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets; but in our own time,  
the last days, he has spoken to us through  
his Son, the Son that he has appointed to  
inherit everything and through whom he  
made everything there is. He is the radiant  
light of God's glory and the perfect copy of  
his nature, sustaining the universe by his  
powerful command; and now that he has

destroyed the defilement of sin, he has  
gone to take his place in heaven at the  
right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now  
as far above the angels as the title which  
he has inherited is higher than their own  
name. God has never said to any angel:  
You are my Son, today I have become your  
father, or: I will be a father to him and he a  
son to me. Again, when he brings the First-  
born into the world, he says: Let all the  
angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us.**

**Come you nations and adore the Lord,**

**Today a great light has come  
upon the earth.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Jn 1:1-18**

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

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through  
him.

All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man  
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us.  
And we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the  
Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

**by Fr Michael Tate**

**Christmas Music**

*The glory of God and profound peace  
reaching out to embrace the whole of  
humanity are dynamically related in the  
baby in the manger. This is the song of the  
angels, and it is our privilege to join in that  
song at this Christmas Mass.*

*Every baby is a promise of a new future  
which fills one with hope. But this baby is  
unique. This Jewish boy baby is the body  
language of God. This baby is the sonburst  
of God entering our dark world. This baby  
shows us that God is not impossibly  
remote but, rather, God is as intimately  
close as a vulnerable infant.*

*And this baby fulfils all the yearning of the  
human heart. We want to love to the  
utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost.  
This baby enables both because he is  
without any finite boundaries or restraints:  
He is in-finite love reaching out to us.*

*Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So,  
like the little lambs nuzzling up to the  
manger, we just follow some deep intuition  
which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is  
good to be here.' We could pause for a  
moment to pray for the resolve to do our  
bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring  
you good news of great joy to be shared by  
all peoples.'*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**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:** Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas, Carol Cox, Marie Pease. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**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 required at indoor venues. 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.

## Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed for one week after Christmas from 27 December and re-opening at 9am 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

Due to Christmas Mass, there will be NO Vigil Mass at Branxton on Saturday 25 December. 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.

## 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. Singleton Diggers asks that all attending are fully vaccinated, check in and wear a mask in the club.

## 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 still some copies at the office for \$15. Please call the office.

## 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. Donations still accepted.

## 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!!!

## Branxton Cemetery Volunteers

Thank you to the parish volunteers who worked so painstakingly mowing and tidying St Brigid's Cemetery for Christmas visitors. If you would like to join a group of volunteers for on-going maintenance of the cemetery, please contact the parish office. A meeting will be organised in the new year.

## 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>



Artwork by Ratheesh Pushkkaran



# O Come, All Ye Faithful!



We thought 2020 was chaotic. 2021 was equally crazy, if not, crazier. Further, as we take that leap for joy while bidding farewell to the year that is about to pass, the omicron variant stares us in the eye. We anxiously ask: would 2022 be any better for us or, at least, for the people we hold dear in our hearts?

As we approach Christmas, our hearts can easily be inundated by anxiety and grief brought about by the overwhelming uncertainties life is throwing at us. Yet, as followers of the God who has taken human form, we hold on to the memories and the promise of God's loving and healing presence in our lives. The Season of Christmas will never dispel our fears and our worries. But it is a fitting reminder for us that Christ is coming again in our lives to accompany us in our journey through life.

May God be with you and happy Christmas to all!

**Rev. Fr. Thomas Chirackal, MST, Parish Priest**

**Rev. Solomon Okovido, Deacon**

*Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton-Greta*

## 2021 Christmas Collection

Donations from this year's collections at Christmas Mass will be used to assist Ratheesh in India.

Ratheesh Pushkkaran is a young, Hindu, disabled man. He is an artist, living with his mother and his child, as his wife left him. In the last floods his motorbike was damaged as well as his laptop, on which he does his artwork. He is now going to his office by taxi and is left with nothing after paying for the taxi. A new laptop for him to complete his work and continue to earn money will cost approximately \$1200 and repairs to his bike will cost approximately \$500.

Pictured below is Ratheesh on his motorbike and some examples of his work.



## Let's Stay COVID Safe at Mass

1. You must 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.

