

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

26 December 2021

First Reading

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Adolescent impatience

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived
among us.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12



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.**

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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 2 JANUARY 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	D Jarrett S Wheeler		
Commentator		L Pozywio	G Cattermole	R Gee		
Readers	C Trunk C Murray	D Clarke	E Thomas J Tindale	R Price T Evans	A Borg	
Prayers		L Pozywio	P Boyd	T Wells		2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	J & S Stafa	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
27 December ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	28 December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	29 December St Thomas Becket	30 December	31 December St Sylvester I	1 January MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	2 January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, 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 Liturgy 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 8.15am 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.

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 be fully vaccinated, check in using the ServiceNSW App 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

The Holy Family

Our joy at the birth of Jesus cannot be contained in just one day of celebration yesterday. Rather it overflows into a whole week of celebration and rejoicing, including today's feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Let us continue to rejoice in this gift of God's love, made manifest for us in the new-born child of Bethlehem.

Today's first reading tells the story of another holy family, that of Elkanah and his wife, Hannah. When their son Samuel is born, Hannah dedicates him to service in the Temple as a gift in return for the gift of his birth.

In this psalm, devotion and love of God is expressed in devotion and love of the house of God, the Temple, which was considered to be the special dwelling place of God's presence on earth.

In the second reading, this reflection from John's first Letter on the fact of our being children of God is appropriate in this season of the Incarnation. Through this mystery, we have been 'adopted' by God as God's own beloved children.

Apart from the infancy narratives, today's Gospel tells us almost all we know of the Holy Family. Unique to Luke's Gospel, we hear the story of the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple after three days. In this, it prefigures another story of finding Jesus, again, after three days.

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.

