

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

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**2 January 2022**

**First Reading** **Is 60:1-6**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.  
Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.  
Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.  
At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;  
the wealth of the nations come to you;  
camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11**

**(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** **Eph 3:2-3, 5-6**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This

mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** **Mt 2:2**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**We have seen his star in the East;**  
**and have come to adore the Lord.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mt 2:1-12**

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

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



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

**Stars and Seekers after Truth**

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control this infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

The Baptism of the Lord  
**1st Reading:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7  
**2nd Reading:** Acts 10:34-38  
**Gospel:** Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



# 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:** Pam Davy. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Tom Barnes and Ron Bendeich. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptism:** Samuel Botes and Chloe Miskin. **Called by name to a child of God.**

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**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 9 JANUARY 2022**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	J Patton	E Janssen	
<b>Readers</b>	J Partridge S Stafa	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	T Cochrane M Stowe	H Janssen N Janssen T Janssen	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	<b>2 Welcomers are required each week.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	S McAlister M Thomas	J Gorczyca	C O'Connor B Thompson			
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>						<b>NO Ministers of Communion are required.</b>

*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>3 January</b> THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	<b>4 January</b>	<b>5 January</b>	<b>6 January</b>	<b>7 January</b> St Raymond of Penyafort	<b>8 January</b>	<b>9 JANUARY</b> THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR C
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Liturgy St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Liturgy St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass Singleton <u>6.00pm</u> Liturgy Broke	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>8.50am</u> Rosary <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Liturgy 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.

## 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 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.

## 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>

## *The Epiphany of the Lord*

*Epiphany means a materialisation or manifestation of an otherwise invisible power. Today's solemnity is so named as it marks the announcement to the world of God's manifestation in Christ. Though Christmas day is the more prominent celebration in the modern world, traditionally it is the feast of the Epiphany that was the highpoint of the Christmas season – the day where the whole world, symbolised by the wise men from Gentile lands, come and discover the Messiah, the new 'king of the Jews'.*





# A WORD FROM FR ANTHONY COLOMA

*If you would recall, I was just freshly ordained by Bishop Bill, of happy memory, when he told the congregation at the Cathedral in February 2019 that he is sending me to the Catholic Parishes of Branxton-Greta and Singleton. When I moved here, I reckoned that you would have noticed my mistakes since I was a newly minted priest at that time. Almost three years had come to pass, I reckoned you still notice my constant misreckoning and my repeated inability to opt for a more polite word at Church. For negatively affecting you of my being a slow learner, I ask for your forgiveness.*

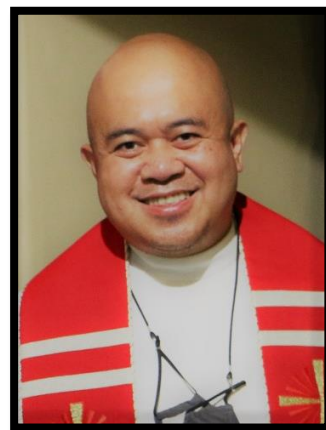
*I must admit that a part of me is excited with the new mission I have been put to task. Yet, a bigger part of me remains deeply and madly grateful for the three grace-filled years that I have spent in our Parish. My heart sings songs of gratitude for the love and the friendship you have blessed and enriched my ministry with. Although, I am physically leaving our locality; nothing is ever really lost in life's constant movements. Everything is grace – even in the pain and process of our goodbyes.*

*The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, quipped that we never step on the river twice. I think it is the same thing for us today in this region. For three years, I have seen the Hunter River run almost dry and get inundated. Whether in drought or in flood, we can never step on the Hunter River twice. It would be in perpetual flux.*

*Although I am not asking you to step on me, the same thing can be construed with the priestly ministry I have been gifted with. It would never be the same because of the constant flux of kindness and goodness you have shown and showered me with. My heart would always sing of and sing for the love you have blessed me with. The priesthood would never be the same for me because of you.*

*You are always in my prayers. And please keep me in your prayers that I may be a good and faithful servant-priest. May we always find Christ in all that we do and in every person that we encounter.*

*'til we meet again,  
Anthony*



## Hope Tree Project



Our first Hope Tree Collection project for 2022 will be to assist Ratheesh in India. This will be added to the Christmas Collection. If you would like to donate, the collection box is available at each mass, or you can transfer directly to the Hope Tree Account. (Account Name: CDF Agent 5565 – BSB: 062 815 – Acc No. 0032 8161)

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 above 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.

