

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

The Baptism of the Lord

9 January 2022

First Reading **Is 42:1-4, 6-7**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Acts 10:34-38**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.
'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ

– but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Mk 9:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!
The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

Gospel **Lk 3:15-16, 21-22**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a powerful impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11

Gospel: Jn 2:1-11



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: Brian Tierney, Ann Payne and Ray Power. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

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

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Deacon	Rev Solomon Okovido	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: solomon.okovido@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)			
St Patrick's Parish			
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)			
St Brigid's Parish			
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 16 JANUARY 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	L Sneesby Tooth	D & J Clarke	C Crow	R Gee R James		
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole			
Readers	P Conroy C Szumilas	L Harrison	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	P Bridge	R & D Nowland			
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						NO Ministers of Communion are required.

Faithful and passionate 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 is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Mass. Please speak with him before Mass.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10 January	11 January	12 January	13 January <i>St Hilary</i>	14 January	15 January	16 January 2 ND SUNDAY IN ORD TIME, 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 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9:00am Novena 9.20am Mass Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass 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 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.

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.

Mass on Australia Day (Weds 26 January) will be changed to 6pm in Singleton.

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/>

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>

"Amoris Laetitia Family Year" 19 March 2021- 26 June 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a collaboration of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection. To access this resource:

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

Faith Matters | Share your story

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explore individuals and communities rich experience of their faith.

We invite you to share your faith story. *Everyone has a story.*

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we all have a story to tell, and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

- Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?
- Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?
- How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?
- In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Faith Matters. For more information or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au or send your story to shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au



The Baptism of the Lord

As we transition from the Season of Christmas to the Season of Ordinary Time, today's feast reminds us of the importance our own baptism – we are not called to be mere spectators of the life in the Church. Rather, we too, are called to be God's beloved daughters and sons.

From the prophet Isaiah, today's first reading has echoes of our Advent readings which proclaim the coming of the Lord announced by the Lord's messenger. We have long identified this reading with John the Baptist and his call to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Today's psalm is a hymn of praise to God who is depicted as a mighty cosmic warrior who is the giver of all life and whose very spirit renews the face of the earth.

In his letter to the leader of the Christian Community in Crete, Paul outlines the reason why we should live good lives – it is our hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

In today's Gospel Reading, John the Baptist downplays his role while at the same time pointing to the greatness of the One who is to come.

Hope Tree Collection

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



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.

