

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C

20 November 2022

First Reading

2 Sm 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. *(R.)*

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. *(R.)*

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Col 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –

all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mk 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

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



The Power of Remembering

If you memorise a tune or your 'times tables', you are said to 'know it by heart'. The sort of person who will always remember me is someone who 'knows me by heart'.

Here, a tortured criminal starts his plea: 'Jesus . . .'. This is one of only two instances where Jesus is addressed by his name which means 'The Lord saves'. The good thief went on: 'remember me when you come into Your Kingdom'. Jesus 'knows him by heart' and promises that He will remember him in Paradise.

This is an exercise of sovereignty which befits 'Christ the King'. This is all the Kingly power which you or I will ever need, but to confidently invoke it we need to position ourselves alongside Jesus, like the 'good thief'. We do this by our practical concern for the poor and by coming to Mass which re-memembers the Body of Christ.

We could pause for a moment to pray: 'Jesus, remember me, know me by heart, for when you do I will be in Paradise.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and
ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

1st Reading: Is 2:1-5

2nd Reading: Rom 13:11-14

Gospel: Mt 24:37-44



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Austin Hoffman, Maureen March, Warren Markham, Mick McCrone, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, David Patton, Jen Phillips, Peter Rouse, Vincent Smolenaers, and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Pam Cooke, Noeline Cattermole, David and Doreen Winsor, Hal James and Josie Wilcher. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Jane Winsor-O'Keefe and Barbara Flanagan (Mass 10am 23/11 St Patrick's Singleton). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Lisa Vu (Branxton) and Poppy O'Hara, Levi Pease and Ralphie Lamb (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be placed in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@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
St Patrick's Parish 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
St Brigid's Parish 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 Courtney Newman	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Woolley
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	SCAE LEADER	H Rapp	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa *Volunteer needed	M Ingold	H Ruigrok S Bates	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp O Brackenrig C Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Harrison	E Thomas	F Cantrall	Adele Skardon	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory	SCAE	G Wilton	*Volunteer needed	*Volunteer needed	Skardon Family	
Extraordinary Ministers						
Rosary Leader		D Clarke				

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
21 November <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	22 November <i>St Cecilia</i>	23 November <i>St Clement I</i> <i>St Columban</i>	24 November <i>St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions</i>	25 November <i>St Catherine of Alexandria</i>	26 November	27 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>10.00am</u> Requiem Mass <u>Barbara Flanagan</u> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass Holy Hour St Patrick's Singleton <u>11.00am</u> Mass Mercy Home	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> SCAE <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> LOTW St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

Lay Leaders Required

To ensure all parish communities can receive communion with only one priest in the parish, we will continue the previous parish tradition of alternating Mass with **Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist** (SCAE). On some occasions, when Fr Thomas is unavailable for weekday Mass, **Liturgy of the Word (with Communion)** (LOTW) will be celebrated.

Leaders are required for the following dates:

	24 Nov	Branxton 9.20am	
27 Nov	Singleton 10.00am	26 Nov	Branxton 6pm

Adoration for the Feast of Christ the King

This Sunday in St Patrick's Church Singleton, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held from 12.30pm to 5pm for the Feast of Christ the King.

Holy Hour will be held after Mass each Friday during Advent.

Hope Tree Group – Project 12 – Stoves for Burundi

The congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Burundi, East Africa need assistance to purchase five gas stoves for their community. This is Project 12 for the Hope Tree Group, a joint initiative of the Branxton and Singleton Parishes and their parish schools, St Catherine's College Singleton and Rosary Park, Branxton. More information about the project can be found on the posters at each church. Cash donations can be left in the collection boxes at each church, placed in an envelope in the collection basket or you can transfer directly using the following details:

Account Name: CDF Agent 5565

BSB: 062 815 Account Number: 0032 8161

Reference: Hope Tree P12

God's Word 2023

Copies of God's Word Daily Reflections for 2023 are now available at St Patrick's Church. The books are \$15. Please place payment in the envelope inside the book and place it on the collection plate. If you have missed out, please contact the Parish Office and more copies can be ordered.

Muswellbrook Parish Spiritual Retreat

The Muswellbrook Parish are pleased to announce that they have been able to reschedule their Spiritual Retreat. The retreat presented by the Divine Retreat Centre will now be held on **Saturday 17 December 2022 from 9.30am-3.30pm** in St James Catholic Church, 65 Brook Street, Muswellbrook. Please contact Monica Brown on 0409 913 453 or Colleen Kelly on 0402 242 273 to register. Morning Tea will be provided and please bring a plate to share for lunch. There is no charge for the retreat, however, a donation on the day to help pay the costs of transport for the team from Sydney would be appreciated.

CLEANER WANTED

One day per week
for Presbytery cleaning

MORE INFORMATION

Parish Office
02 5507 4048



Coronavirus Update – Amendments to Memo

Previously, a memo from the Diocesan Liturgy Council was relayed to all parishioners via our parish bulletin.

In relation to receiving communion at Mass, further instruction has been received from Diocesan Administrator, Fr Greg Barker this week: *'With the spike in Covid variants currently crossing Australia please hold off from reintroducing the Chalice at Masses. The Bishops' Conference will be talking about it this week and although the advice from our Liturgy Council was good it would be prudent to hold off till I can re-advise you of our way forward at the end of this week.'*

Become and SRE Volunteer

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator? This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics. You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.

Waiting with a Purpose – Advent Reflection

Waiting with Purpose is a resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams – to reflect mystagogically on the Advent gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical Reflection deepens our capacity to live from Christ.

To access the resource, go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year

For those wanting to connect via Zoom during Advent we will be hosting Waiting with Purpose Advent Reflection each Monday at 10am.

To register go to: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837

Bishop's Award 2022

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Bishop's Award! The award aims to recognise the good works of students and young people across our Diocese who were actively involved in their parish communities. Applications close on 2 December 2022.

Find out more: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award.

Mass for the Holy Souls

*'The Lord will open to them
the gate of paradise,
where there is no death
only lasting joy.'*



Mass will be offered in November for:

- The Jones, Peters and McNamara
- Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas
- The Bendeich and Ingold Families
- The McTiernan and Escala Families
- The Tope and Garner Families
- The Holz and Alsleben Families
- Keith Miller
- The Clarke Family
- The Burton, Miller and Wilton Families
- Greg Dunn and Greg and Marie Ernst
- The Jones and Hughes Families
- The Dagg and Nowland Families

November Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or are included with the planned giving envelope sets. Please place these in the offertory baskets to have a Mass said during November.

GOSPEL FOCUS

A kingdom of inclusion

In response to the criminal's faith, Jesus assures him, 'today you will be with me in paradise'. There is a certainty and immediacy about the response. Jesus does not tell him that some time in the future he will be rewarded for his faith. No, it is today that the criminal will join Jesus in paradise. It is an expression of the welcome and inclusion that Jesus has extended to the outsider and undervalued throughout his ministry. It is a clear indication that the Kingdom of God that Jesus has worked to bring about is a kingdom of inclusion and welcome.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King was introduced to the liturgical calendar by Pope Pius XI in 1925. The establishment of the feast took place in a world that had suffered through the First World War and was unknowingly heading towards the Second World War. In this setting, the world was experiencing a dramatic growth in secularism and an even more dramatic growth in dictators who were rising to power in various states. The introduction of the feast was a call back from the secular and a call to remember Christ as having authority above and beyond any earthly leader.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Shepherds and Criminals

The gospel of Luke is underlined by a message of hope for those who are afflicted, outcast and poor. In this gospel, the message and ministry of Jesus are directed specifically to these lowly ones. The significance of the role played by the poor is highlighted by the framing of the whole narrative in this gospel: the birth of Jesus is celebrated by shepherds and his death is accompanied by criminals. Shepherds and criminals – two classes of people on the absolute fringe of society; not dignitaries or wise men from afar – are witness to the birth and death of Jesus.

Branxton Parish Property News

At a Parish Finance Council Meeting on 19 October 2022, a motion was passed and accepted to purchase a 3-bedroom villa at 6/5 Maitland St, Branxton for the price of \$450,000. The villa is in excellent condition and the Parish already own a similar villa in the same complex.

Fr Greg Barker then granted the parish *Permission for Extraordinary Act of Administration* (Purchase of property).

The \$450,000 will be funded by a \$260,000 loan from the Catholic Community Fund, with the remaining \$190,000 being funded from Branxton Parish accounts.

The rent of \$450 per week will be used to re-pay the CCF loan and will then become an income stream for the Parish for years to come.