

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

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

27 November 2022

First Reading

Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(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.)*

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. 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.)*

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' *(R.)*

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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



Wake up to the Poetry

Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah in his local synagogue. The poetic image of swords being hammered into ploughshares reverberated into his renouncing violence against the Roman occupying army in his own time. When will this picture come true for all human beings for all time?

Only God knows! We don't know any more than we know when a burglar might target our home. But our ignorance of God's timetable is no excuse for being fatalistic and sleepy. We have our own span of life providing the timetable for our own contribution to the hammering of swords into ploughshares.

Recent Popes, especially St John Paul II, have taken up this theme for our times, teaching more restrictive criteria for using armed force, even dropping the term 'just war' to very small print in the Catechism.

We could pause for a moment to pray to be awake to our opportunities to shape society in the light of the vision of Isaiah and the practice of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
 In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
 Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

1st Reading: Is 11:1-10

2nd Reading: Rom 15:4-9

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12



Prayer Requests

Sick: Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Cathy Dunn (Goulburn), 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: Tom Ernst, John Spinks, Adrian Stafa. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Terrence McGrath, Betty McVean, Stephanie Sullivan. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Parker Moore and Hunter Copeland (Greta). **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
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	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	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 4 DECEMBER 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		G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	*Volunteer Needed		
Readers	P Conroy S Trunk	D Clarke	J Tindale E Thomas	M Stowe *Volunteer Needed	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford	*Volunteer Needed	M Cunningham	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory	C & A Trunk	T Ernst	G Cattermole	*Volunteer needed		
Extraordinary Ministers						
Rosary Leader	C Miller					

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
28 November	29 November	30 November ST ANDREW, APOSTLE	1 December	2 December	3 December St Francis Xavier	4 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>9.45am</u> Adoration Hour St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <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> 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 asked to place their name on the roster at Singleton for the following dates:

4 Dec Singleton 7.00am
11 Dec Singleton 6.00pm

Office Hour changes - December

The Parish office will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday 1 December
Friday 9 December
Tuesday 13 December
Tuesday 27 - 30 December

Adoration for the season of Advent

Holy Hour Adoration will be held after Mass in St Patrick's Church each Friday during Advent.

Singleton Parish Festive Sausage Sizzle

A free Festive Sausage Sizzle will be held on Sunday 11 December from 11.45am in the grounds of the Presbytery to celebrate the year and Fr Thomas' birthday! Please bring a chair, drinks and a slice/cake to share. Place your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you will be attending. RSVP Tuesday 6 December.

St Patrick's Parish 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 3 December at 9.20am. We will be praying for the souls of

- † Evelyn Escala Lopez
- † Maureen Bailey
- † Ronald Bendeich

Each Saturday at 9am, St Patrick's Parish hold a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. We would like to invite and welcome you all to attend the Novena and our Anniversary Mass.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Christmas Lunch

Please join us for the Women's Guild Christmas Lunch which will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 14 December at the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. There will be a cost of \$10.00 to cover food and please bring along a gift for our Kris Kringle to the value of \$10.00 with a Christmas theme. For catering purposes could you please contact Elaine on 0432 870012 or Gisella on 0421 783066 if you will be attending.

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**



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

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 Burston and Boyce Family
- Bevan Spinks
- John McAleer
- The Holz, Martin and Gallagher Families

Christmas Offering



Christmas Offering envelopes are available at each church and are also included in planned giving envelope sets. These offerings are sent to the Maitland Central Clergy Fund to be distributed to the clergy of our Diocese. Please place on either collection plate.



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

First Sunday of Advent: The Prophet's Candle

Celebrant: Today is the First Sunday of Advent and our Advent wreath is prepared. As we begin this holy season, let us bless this water and sprinkle the Advent Wreath and ourselves with it to remind us that, in baptism, God chose us to work with Jesus to make a difference in our world.

(The priest sprinkles the wreath and the assembly with holy water.)

Now we light the first of the Advent candles. It is called the prophet's candle. It is the candle of hope and a promise to us that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, and be born in our hearts.

(The Prophet's candle is lit as the following is sung)

Celebrant: Jesus, Word of God.
Light of the world,
Born of Mary, give us your hope this day.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, and be born in our hearts.