

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

4 December 2022

First Reading

Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of
wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and
power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear
of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor
of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge
of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.**

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 the earth's bounds.
(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.)**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans*

Everything that was written long ago in the
scriptures was meant to teach us something
about hope from the examples scripture
gives of how people who did not give up
were helped by God. And may he who helps
us when we refuse to give up, help you all to
be tolerant with each other, following the
example of Christ Jesus, so that united in
mind and voice you may give glory to the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to
treat each other in the same friendly way as
Christ treated you. The reason Christ
became the servant of circumcised Jews
was not only so that God could faithfully
carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to
give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture
says in one place: For this I shall praise you
among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make

straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

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

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he
preached in the wilderness of Judaea and
this was his message: 'Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This
was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of
when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of
camel-hair with a leather belt round his
waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and
the whole Jordan district made their way to
him, and as they were baptised by him in
the river Jordan they confessed their sins.
But when he saw a number of Pharisees
and Sadducees coming for baptism he said
to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to
fly from the retribution that is coming? But if
you are repentant, produce the appropriate
fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves,
"We have Abraham for our father," because,
I tell you, God can raise children for
Abraham from these stones. Even now the
axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that
any tree which fails to produce good fruit will

be cut down and thrown on the fire. I
baptise you in water for repentance, but the
one who follows me is more powerful than I
am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he
will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will
clear his threshing-floor and gather his
wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will
burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was
'at hand' as he immersed and plunged
followers into the waters of the Jordan
River. (His nickname was John the
Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He
used flowing water to symbolise the
washing away of the past for those who
repented so that they could be totally
focused on the 'at hand' person who would
inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the
'Someone'! But he realised that this
'Someone' would have divine power to
affect the future by immersing, baptising,
his followers with the Holy Spirit and with
fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like
John's disciples, filled with a sense of
anticipation, looking forward to the coming
towards us ('Advent' in Latin) of the One
who can flood our minds and bodies with
the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts
in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God
that, even though we are unworthy to carry
His sandals, there is One who is coming
towards us wanting to transform us with
Divine Power. © Fr Michael Tate

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you
from God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

1st Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

2nd Reading: Jas 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



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: Nellie Phipps, Josephine McShane, Mary Hopkins. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Cynthia (Sue) Wholert, Kathleen Bowd. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptisms: Otis Cowburn (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
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 Courtney Newman	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 11 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		
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	*Volunteer Needed		
Readers	S Trunk C Szumilas	D Lerch	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe *Volunteer Needed	Skardon Family	
Prayers		D Clarke	P Boyd	*Volunteer Needed	Skardon Family	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory	*Volunteer Needed	J Gorczyca		*Volunteer needed		
Extraordinary Ministers						
Rosary Leader	L Gorczyca					

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
5 December	6 December <i>St Nicholas</i>	7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	8 December <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9 December <i>St Juan Diego</i>	10 December <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	11 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	8.30am Mass St Patrick's Singleton *Note change of time*	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass 9.45am Adoration Hour St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass Yr 6 Rite of Pass 6.00pm SCAE 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 SCAE 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:

11 Dec Singleton 6.00pm

Office Hour changes - December

The Parish office will be closed on the following dates:

- ✘ 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! Please bring 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 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.

Senior Singles Monthly Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will hold their monthly lunch on Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New singles welcome to come to share conversation over a meal.

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

The Vinnie's giving tree is set up in St Patrick's Church. Please take a tag to buy an age-appropriate present and bring to the church by Wednesday 14 December so gifts can be distributed in time for Christmas. Gift cards are also accepted.

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 Singleton and St Brigid's Branxton. 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



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Second Sunday of Advent: The Bethlehem Candle

Celebrant: On the First Sunday of Advent we lit the prophets' candle - the candle of hope. Filled with the hope that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises, we light that candle of hope again.

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

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.**

Celebrant: Today we light the Bethlehem Candle - the Candle of Peace and so we are reminded that the one who was born at Bethlehem is the one who brings us peace.

(The Bethlehem candle is lit as the following is said)

Celebrant: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Light in darkness,
Born of Mary, give us your peace this night.

**All: Come, O Prince of Peace. Come, O Prince of Peace.
Come, O Prince of Peace. Come, and be born in our hearts.**

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.

Please place your offering on either collection plate at Mass.

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