

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

**Third Sunday of Advent, Year A**

**11 December 2022**

**First Reading**                      **Is 35:1-6, 10**  
*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall  
return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**                      **Jas 5:7-10**  
*A reading from the letter of St James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has  
had the autumn rains and the spring rains!  
You too have to be patient; do not lose  
heart, because the Lord's coming will be  
soon. Do not make complaints against one  
another, brothers, so as not to be brought to  
judgement yourselves; the Judge is already  
to be seen waiting at the gates. For your  
example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in  
the name of the Lord.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Is 61:1 (Lk 4:8)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;**  
**he sent me to bring Good News to the**  
**poor.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**                                      **Mt 11:2-11**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

John in his prison had heard what Christ  
was doing and he sent his disciples to ask  
him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or  
have we got to wait for someone else?'  
Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John  
what you hear and see; the blind see again,  
and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and  
the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to  
life and the Good News is proclaimed to  
the poor; and happy is the man who does not  
lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus  
began to talk to the people about John:  
'What did you go out into the wilderness to  
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No?  
Then what did you go out to see? A man  
wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who  
wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces.  
Then what did you go out for? To see a  
prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more  
than a prophet: he is the one of whom  
scripture says: Look, I am going to send my  
messenger before you; he will prepare your  
way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all  
the children born of women, a greater than  
John the Baptist has never been seen; yet  
the least in the kingdom of heaven is  
greater than he is.'

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



**The Right Question**

*John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.*

*I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.*

*All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.*

*We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

**1st Reading:** Is 7:10-14

**2nd Reading:** Rom 1:1-7

**Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24



# Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Helen Conlin, Victoria Diputado, Cathy Dunn (Goulburn), Austin Hoffman, Mary-Rose Hopkins, 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:** Lucian Gorczyca, Andrew Gorczyca, Jack Tierney, Veronica Cox, Cresensiana Secondo, Ray Martin. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

*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	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@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>St Patrick's Parish 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>St Brigid's Parish 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 Courtney Newman</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

**MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022**

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Brackenrig
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>		
<b>Readers</b>	C Murray C Trunk	M Ingold	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane <b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	Gresham Family	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca		<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>	J & A Phillips	<b>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas D Thomas	P Bridge		<b>*Volunteer needed</b>	J & A Phillips	
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>						
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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
<b>12 December</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<b>13 December</b> <i>St Lucy</i>	<b>14 December</b> <i>St John of the Cross</i>	<b>15 December</b>	<b>16 December</b>	<b>17 December</b>	<b>18 December</b> FOURTH 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>5.00pm</u> Advent Reconciliation <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>11.00am</u> Anointing Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<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>6.00pm</u> Advent Reconciliation St Brigid's Branxton	<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.

## **Office Hour changes - December**

The Parish office will be closed on the following dates:

- ✘ Tuesday 13 December
- ✘ From 12pm Wednesday 14 December
- ✘ Tuesday 27 – 30 December

## **Advent Reconciliation – Preparing the Way for the Lord**

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experiences, it takes preparation. Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at St Brigid's Branxton on Wednesday 14 December at 6pm and St Patrick's Singleton on Thursday 15 December at 5pm (before 6pm Mass).

## **Adoration for the season of Advent**

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

## **Donations for Christmas Decorations**

If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas church decorations in St Patrick's Church, please speak to Tahnee at Mass or give her a call on 0497 824 455.

## **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 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.

## **St Catherine's Greta – Christmas Morning Tea**

St Catherine's Church Greta will celebrate the Christmas season and the end of the year with morning tea after Mass on Sunday 18 December. All are welcome to come along!

# The Nativity of the Lord

## **RECONCILIATION**

Branxton 14 December 6.00pm  
Singleton 15 December 5.00pm

## **CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**

St Brigid's Branxton 6.30pm  
St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm

## **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS**

St Patrick's Singleton 12.00am

## **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

St Catherine's Greta 8.00am  
St Patrick's Singleton 10.00am



## **God's Word 2023**

Limited copies of God's Word Daily Reflections for 2023 are still available at St Patrick's Singleton. 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.

## **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

## **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.

## **St Catherine's College Year 6 Rite of Passage**



Welcome to the St Catherine's Catholic College Year 6 students and their family and friends to celebrate your Rite of Passage Mass at St Patrick's Church this Sunday! We wish you the best of luck for your high school years!

**"We must strive to ordinary things extraordinarily well"**

Catherine McAuley





# The Lighting of the Advent Candles

## Third Sunday of Advent: The Shepherd's 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: Last week we lit the Bethlehem Candle - the Candle of Peace and so today we light it again and remind ourselves 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.**

Celebrant: Love never ends. So today we light the Shepherds' candle. On that holy night, love shone like a light shining in a dark place. The shepherd's saw it and responded. May the light shine for us and may we respond to Jesus - God's love to us and the one who shows us how to love each other.

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

Celebrant: Rejoice my spirit, in God my Saviour, Christ comes with healing offering us his joy.

**All: Our hearts are open, Our hearts are open. Our hearts are open.  
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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