

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A**

**18 December 2022**

**First Reading**                      **Is 7:10-14**  
*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the  
patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God,  
too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10**

*(R.) Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**                      **Rom 1:1-7**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who  
has been called to be an apostle, and  
specially chosen to preach the Good News  
that God promised long ago through his  
prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who,  
according to the human nature he took,  
was a descendant of David: it is about  
Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of  
the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in  
him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his  
power through his resurrection from the

dead. Through him we received grace and  
our apostolic mission to preach the  
obedience of faith to all pagan nations in  
honour of his name. You are one of these  
nations, and by his call belong to Jesus  
Christ. To you all, then, who are God's  
beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may  
God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send grace and peace.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**                      **Mt 1:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**A virgin will give birth to a son;**  
**his name will be Emmanuel: God is with**  
**us.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**    **Mt 1:18-24**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born.  
His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph;  
but before they came to live together she  
was found to be with child through the  
Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a  
man of honour and wanting to spare her  
publicity, decided to divorce her  
informally. He had made up his mind to  
do this when the angel of the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream and said,  
'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to  
take Mary home as your wife, because  
she has conceived what is in her by the  
Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and  
you must name him Jesus, because he is  
the one who is to save his people from  
their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil  
the words spoken by the Lord through the  
prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to  
a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.  
When Joseph woke up he did what the  
angel of the Lord had told him to do: he  
took his wife to his home.

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



**Just Man Dreaming**

*Joseph could not ignore Mary's  
pregnancy, but he had an exceptional  
large-heartedness, so that he preserved a  
future for Mary even though she had  
apparently wronged him.*

*If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind  
to avenge his honour, he would not have  
been ready to have the deepest levels of  
his consciousness stirred in the way God  
wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and  
good man, Joseph was enlightened as to  
the divine dimension of Mary's  
pregnancy. The old cycle of human  
history, literally generation after  
generation, was being broken. Something  
utterly new had happened.*

*You and I are just as likely to receive an  
intuition as to God's plan for us in the  
depths of sleep: who we really are, who  
we are destined to be, where we fit in to  
God's plan for transforming the whole of  
creation. When we get these instructive  
moments in our sleep, what can we do  
when we wake up? We can do what  
Joseph did: get up and do what is needed  
to fulfil the message.*

*We could pause for a moment to thank  
Joseph for showing what dreams can be  
made of. Tonight might be the night!*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a  
Saviour.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a  
son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

**1st Reading:** Is 52:7-10

**2nd Reading:** Heb 1:1-6

**Gospel:** Jn 1:1-18



# 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, Jen Phillips, Peter Rouse, Vincent Smolenaers, and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Gordon Wright, Mary Cox, Kathleen Markham. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Elizabeth Keenan (nee Tierney), David Patton. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Oliver Smith (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	<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 25 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		J Dries		G McMillan
<b>Commentator</b>		Volunteers		<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		R James D Cantrall		
<b>Prayers</b>		Volunteers		<b>*Volunteer Needed</b>		Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
<b>Offertory</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Frances Cantrall		
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>						
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		Volunteer				

*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>19 December</b>	<b>20 December</b>	<b>21 December</b> <i>St Peter Canisius</i>	<b>22 December</b>	<b>23 December</b> <i>St John of Kanty</i>	<b>24 December</b>	<b>25 December</b> NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)
<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> Anointing Mass <u>9.45am</u> Adoration Hour St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.30pm</u> Christmas Vigil Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>12.00am</u> Midnight Mass <u>10.00am</u> Christmas Day 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>6.30pm</u> Christmas Vigil Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.00am</u> Christmas Day 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 27 – 30 December

## The Nativity of the Lord



### 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



## 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.

## 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!

## 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.

## Happy Holidays!

We wish the staff and students of our parish schools a happy and safe holiday! Have a refreshing break so you can return refreshed for a new year of learning!

## 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

Thank You to St Catherine's Catholic College for raising funds to purchase another stove for the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! They raised funds by having a Green, White and Red themed out-of-uniform day and are also donating a prize they won for decorating their classrooms! Well done!

## Christmas Mass Times in the Diocese

If you are travelling in our Diocese for Christmas, you can find a Mass near you by downloading the Mass App or visiting the Diocese Website

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes>

## Christmas Message

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with happiness from the St Brigid's Caritas Group, Branxton.

## Caritas Christmas Appeal

*Christmas is a time of miracles – of hope and renewal.*

Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters this Christmas in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/christmas](http://www.caritas.org.au/christmas) this Christmas or call 1800 024 413 toll free to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year.



PEACE ON EARTH  
and goodwill to all



MATTHEW 2:10

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news  
that will cause great joy for all the people”.

**M**y mantra this year is *smile lots  
and be kind.*

Christmas is such a gentle reminder, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, to be as a smile does, as Jesus does.

A smile in a single moment offers welcome, warmth and invitation, it signals willingness to meet and offers a hope that comes from meeting, a 'you are the one person I've been hoping to see all day'.

A smile offers excitement at the possibilities of encounter, suspends judgement, radiates joy, seeks to see in others the face of God looking back, sees the other, seeks the best, wants the best, brings the best, wants to be present, loving, forgiving. A smile is selfless and is free.

Wishing you much joy this Christmas as you gather with family, friends and people of good will. Smile lots and be kind.

Fr Greg Barker  
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

CLICK HERE FOR MY  
CHRISTMAS VIDEO  
MESSAGE





# The Lighting of the Advent Candles

## Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Angel'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 to us 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: We lit the Bethlehem Candle, on the Second Sunday of Advent. It is 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: Last week we lit the Shepherds' candle - the candle of joy. For on that holy night, love shone like a light shining in a dark place. The shepherds' saw it and responded with joy. As the light the candle today may the light shine for us and may we respond with joy to Jesus who brings God's love to us.

*(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.**

Celebrant: On this the Fourth Sunday - the Angels' Sunday - we light the candle of love. For the angels announced the coming of the one who is love incarnate. May we share in the love of Jesus who is Emmanuel.

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

Celebrant: Light has come to us, light in our darkness, Jesus Emmanuel, bearer of God's love for us.

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

Color in the shapes with dots to reveal a special name.

