

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

Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day

25 December 2022

First Reading

Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

At various times in the past and in various
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets; but in our own time,
the last days, he has spoken to us through
his Son, the Son that he has appointed to
inherit everything and through whom he
made everything there is. He is the radiant
light of God's glory and the perfect copy of
his nature, sustaining the universe by his
powerful command; and now that he has

destroyed the defilement of sin, he has
gone to take his place in heaven at the
right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now
as far above the angels as the title which
he has inherited is higher than their own
name. God has never said to any angel:
You are my Son, today I have become your
father, or: I will be a father to him and he a
son to me. Again, when he brings the First-
born into the world, he says: Let all the
angels of God worship him.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord,
Today a great light has come
upon the earth.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Jn 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through
him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us.
And we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the
Father, full of grace and truth.
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Lighting of the Advent Candles

Prophet Candle is lit

Jesus, Word of God. Light of the world,
Born of Mary, give us your hope this day.
**Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, and be born in our hearts.**

Bethlehem Candle is lit

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Light in darkness,
Born of Mary, give us your peace this
night.
**Come, O Prince of Peace.
Come, and be born in our hearts.**

Shepherd's Candle is lit

Rejoice my spirit, in God my Saviour,
Christ comes with healing offering us his
joy.
**Our hearts are open.
Come, and be born in our hearts.**

Angel's Candle is lit

Light has come to us, light in our
darkness, Jesus Emmanuel, bearer of
God's love for us
**Come, Emmanuel.
Come, and be born in our hearts.**

Christ Candle is lit

Come all ye faithful. Shout for joy. God
now comes to us, Jesus Christ our true
light.
**Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, and be born in our hearts.**

**Eternal God,
may the brilliance of Jesus,
your one true light, illuminate our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds.
May the hope, the peace, the joy
and the love he brings to us this night,
fill our lives and become part of all we
say and do, through the same Christ our
Lord. Amen**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God

1st Reading: Nm 6:22-27

2nd Reading: Gal 4:4-7

Gospel: Lk 2:16-21



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: Mary Bonsor, Carol Cox, Pam Davy, Patty Paget, Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Maxene Hardy. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

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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 1 JANUARY 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		
Commentator		Volunteer	G Cattermole	*Volunteer Needed	*Volunteer Needed	
Readers	C Trunk C Szumilas	Volunteer	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		Volunteer	C Langford	*Volunteer Needed	M Cunningham	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	Volunteer	G Cattermole	*Volunteer Needed	*Volunteer Needed	
Extraordinary Ministers						
Rosary Leader		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
26 December <i>ST STEPHEN</i>	27 December <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</i>	28 December <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i>	29 December <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	30 December <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</i>	31 December <i>St Sylvester I</i>	1 January <i>THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 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 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 - January

The Parish office will be

CLOSED 26-30 December,

OPEN Monday 23 January,

CLOSED 24 January 2023,

OPEN Wednesday 25 January

CLOSED Thursday 26 January and Friday 27 January

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.

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

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 this Christmas or call 1800 024 413 toll free to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year.

Aid to the Church Appeal

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria.

It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas!

To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

2023 Lenten Reflection – Finding Light in the Darkness

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, Finding Light within the Darkness. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community. This resource will be available at the end of January.

Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au

Useful Links

Here are some useful links and resources that may be new to you.

- Parish Website: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
- Liturgy page – regularly updated mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/
- Faith formation page – regularly updated mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/
- <https://mnnews.today/> – Diocesan News Service
- <http://www.domnsynod.com.au/> – Information about the Diocesan Synod
- DoMN Library - <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library/>
- Subscribe to Diocesan Update eNewsletter <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/dio-update-eneewsletter/>
- Aurora Magazine articles online <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>
- Full Diocesan Calendar and Community Noticeboard

Discover our new app

Local Mass times, news, events, and parish giving are now right at your fingertips.

Main features:

1. Up-to-date local church Mass times
2. Latest Parish news
3. Parish and Diocesan events
4. Daily prayers and homilies
5. Contactless Mass collections

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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app

EMMANUEL

GOD WITH US



RECEIVE EMMANUEL - BE EMMANUEL

We rejoice at Christmas because in and through Jesus, God becomes *Emmanuel*, that is, a God who is with us always, in all our life-situations. He is one of us in our joys, sorrows, struggles, frustrations, tensions, crises, and death. He not only came to be with us in history but continues to be with us in the Eucharist and promises to remain with us always till the end of the age. Assured of this promise, we are invited to receive Emmanuel into our hearts and be Emmanuel for the world around us. We are called to be signs of *God's presence* in the world so that those who encounter us can find him through our love and deeds of compassion. Let us share the joy of Christmas with those who are really in need of it, who are sad due to illness, loneliness, or other traumatic experiences. This could be one of the ways of celebrating Christmas.

This is also time to give thanks for all the gifts or blessings we have received in the past year as individuals and as a parish. I thank all the volunteers: the choir and those who play the music; sacristans; welcomers; those who lead the liturgy; those who arrange the flowers; those who clean the churches; those who mow the cemeteries and many more. We are still in need of more volunteers. Think of giving back a little of your time and talents as gift to Jesus this year. I acknowledge the efficient work done by our parish secretary, Erica.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, may God be with you always.

Fr Thomas



Hope Tree
Group

2022 Christmas Collection

Mattresses for the Students of Bene Mariya Community



Sr Cecile of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Bene Mariya in Burundi, is asking our Parishes to help with purchasing new mattresses for their hostel beds.

The Sisters run the hostel and house students who attend the local school in their dormitories. They have 25 students from primary and high school staying with them.

The students are not sleeping well due the poor condition of the mattresses on their beds. The mattresses are old, worn and falling apart. Some students sleep on the floor as it is more comfortable than their bed or they don't have a mattress.

New mattresses would improve the health and well-being of the students, in turn improving with their classroom learning. 25 mattresses are needed at a cost of \$45 AUD each.

All collections taken at our 2022 Christmas Masses will be donated to this project.

