

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

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, Year A

1 January 2023

First Reading

Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.
(R.)

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth. *(R.)*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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



The Calendar-Shattering Mary

It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate the calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race.

In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void.

When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins.

We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12



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: Pam Davy. **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	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 8 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		K Ingold	G Cattermole	*Volunteer Needed	E Janssen	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	SCAE LEADER L Gorczyca	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe	Janssen Family	
Prayers		K Ingold	P Boyd	*Volunteer Needed	E Janssen	Offertory procession and collections can commence again.
Offertory	M Thomas D Thomas	G Wilton		*Volunteer Needed	*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
2 January <i>Sts Basil and Gregory</i>	3 January <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	4 January	5 January	6 January	7 January <i>St Raymond of Penyafort</i>	8 January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<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> LOTW St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> NO MASS St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> 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.

Office Hour changes - January

The Parish office will be

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

2023 CCF Calendars

The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has changed its name to Catholic Community Fund (CCF). Through the loyal support of CCF members, over the last 10 years alone, the fund has been able to give back to the community by providing over \$43m to support the charitable works of the Diocese, its parishes and agencies. During this time, the Fund has also delivered effective funding strategies to build schools, early education centres, community housing, facilities for CatholicCare, fund parish initiatives and many other wonderful infrastructures across the Diocese. They thank the parish for the role they have played in supporting this important work.

The 2023 magnetic calendars are now available at each church for you to take home. The CCF looks forward to working with the parish community in 2023 and hope that with our assistance and promotion of the Fund, they can ensure that the CCF continues to grow and serve our community.

For more information about the Fund please go to <https://myccf.com.au/>

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-enewsletter/>
- Aurora Magazine articles online <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>

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

Free download from:

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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

Happy
New
Year

2023

We are leaving behind a year which was *almost* normal. Even though Covid-19 is still around, it does not frighten us as before. With gratitude we bid farewell to 2022 and look forward with hope to 2023, but the future is always uncertain. Last year we had many things to be thankful to God for, individually and as a parish. Our Parish finance situations are stable. In Branxton Parish, the sale of the land near the old convent is underway way, as well as the purchase of a new rental property in Maitland Street, which will augment the income of the parish. In Singleton, the old primary school has been demolished and discussions have started with the diocese regarding the future use of the land. We hope there will be some outcomes to report during this year. I appreciate the efforts of the various committees and councils in getting these projects happening.

January is named after Roman God, Janus, who has two faces - **one looking backwards and one looking forward**. At this juncture let us look back and find our shortcomings and resolve to do better in this coming year.

Our Parishes will move forward with the coordinated effort of everyone. Many of our volunteers are retiring and there is a need for new ones to come forward and fill those vacant spots. There are many areas of our life we can do something for God in this world. That 'something' can come out in the form of service to somebody or the community. Many of you are talented in one ministry or another. If you can participate in at least one ministry, it will be a great service to God. Please remember, the community becomes vibrant only with the active participation of its members. If everybody steps back, one day our church itself will cease to exist.

An unknown author speaks about the best gifts we can give to others for the New Year:

To your friend- loyalty; to your enemy - forgiveness; to your boss - service; to a child - good example; to your parents -gratitude; to your mate - love and faithfulness; to all men and women - your love; to God - your life.



I wish you all a blessed peaceful and joyful New year.

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.

