

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

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A

8 January 2023

First Reading

Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem,
for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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 earth's bounds. **(R.)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(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.)**

Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed

through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

**We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

*They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control **this** infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.*

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him. © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1st Reading: Is 49:3, 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-3

Gospel: Jn 1:29-34



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 and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Marge Bendeich, Des Dagg, Ann Payne, Dulcie Standing and Brian Tierney. **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 15 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 | | J Brackenrig (10/1) |
| Commentator | | L Harrison | G Cattermole | *Volunteer Needed | | |
| Readers | P Conroy S Trunk | D Lerch | SCAE LEADER C Spiteri D Thompson | T Cochrane | Gresham Family | |
| Prayers | | L Harrison | P Boyd | *Volunteer Needed | J & A Philips | <i>Offertory procession and collections can commence again.</i> |
| Offertory | C & A Trunk | T Ernst | | *Volunteer Needed | J & A Philips | |
| 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 |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 9 January <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i> | 10 January | 11 January | 12 January | 13 January <i>St Hilary</i> | 14 January | 15 January <i>2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A</i> |
| <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> Mass St Patrick's Singleton | <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton | <u>7.00am</u> SCAE <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>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 - January

The Parish office will be

OPEN Monday 23 January,

CLOSED Tuesday 24 January

OPEN Wednesday 25 January

CLOSED Thursday 26 January and Friday 27 January

St Brigid's Parish Monthly Lunch

Everyone is welcome to attend the next St Brigid's Parish Lunch organized by the Caritas group at 12pm, Friday 20 January 2023 at Miller Park Hotel. Please contact Mercia on 0447 819 889 by 17 January if you will be attending.

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/>



Christmas Collection Thank You

To everyone who placed a donation in the collection during the Christmas masses, thank you! The total raised is enough to purchase all the mattresses required for the hostel.

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.

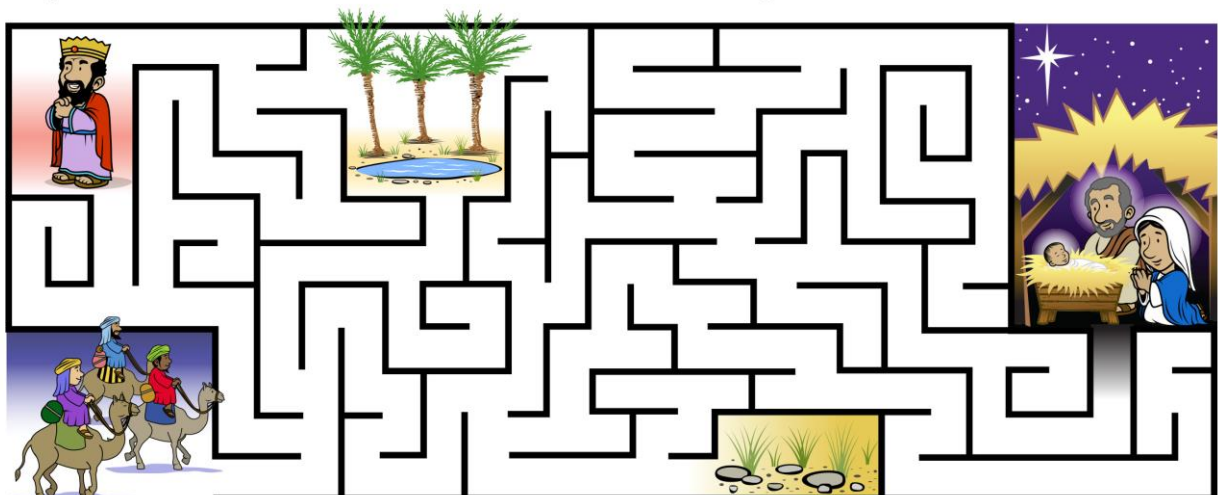
More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au

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 <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>
- Livestream Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday 9.30am <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream>

Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!





AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Church in Australia mourns death of Pope Benedict XVI

MEDIA RELEASE

December 31, 2022

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican's most influential departments, for more than two decades.

Pope Benedict died in Rome, where he had lived since his papal retirement, on Saturday evening, Australian time.

"From his time as an expert adviser – or *peritus* – at the Second Vatican Council onwards, there was no question that Joseph Ratzinger was a major figure within the Church around the world," said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

"His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series *Jesus of Nazareth*, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse."

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the bishop who oversaw World Youth Day in 2008, said Pope Benedict had been a key influence and someone with whom he became close.

"I had the great privilege of spending some private moments with Pope Benedict, away from the spotlight," Archbishop Fisher said.

"They were moments I will forever cherish. He had a great intellect, which he shared through his work as a professor, a Church leader and ultimately as Pope.

"He did not seek nor enjoy the spotlight, but he produced some magnificent works that have shaped and will continue to shape Catholic thought and Catholic life."

Archbishop Fisher said he was very grateful to spend some time with Pope Benedict during his visits to Rome.

"Reminiscing about his time in Australia and learning from this gentle father figure was a real joy," he said.

Archbishop Costelloe said parishes around the country will hold special memorial Masses for Pope Benedict in the coming days, encouraging those wishing to attend to visit local church and cathedral websites for more information.

"These Masses will be a chance to celebrate the life and faith of Pope Benedict, but also to pray for the repose of his soul – just as we do for anyone who has died," he said.