



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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

5 November 2023

First Reading Mal 1:14-2:2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. *(R.)*

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. *(R.)*

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 2:7-9, 13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 23:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 23:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Titles and Burdens

There have been periods in the church's history where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people – particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins – truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of distorted lives.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade responsibility for this by hiding behind honorific titles.

In the Gospels, we find the One who said: 'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid on them by Church leaders (who often long to be greeted obsequiously) leads to refreshment and rest for their souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis whose favoured titles are simply: 'Bishop of Rome', 'Servant of the Servants of God'.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Wis 6:12-16
2nd Reading: 1 Thes 4:13-18
Gospel: Mt 25:1-13

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup, we proclaim your Death
O Lord until you come again.

Prayer Requests

Sick: *Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, Jen Phillips, Helen Ralston, Olga Roberts, Cecilia Rosenthal, Patricia Wilson and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

Anniversaries: *Frank Tierney and Cecilia Rosenthal, Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Myrna Miaco, Adrian Sever, John Bridge, Patricia Holz and Helen Ralston. May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*

Baptisms: *Hartley and Henley Rollason, Claire Stewart (Branxton), Chloe Gatt and Hadley Fenwick (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.*

Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put 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	Promoters of Safeguarding Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
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	
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
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	
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
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 Madison Keevill	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	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
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	C Harvey C Szumilas	M Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen N Janssen H Janssen	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	C Anderson L Harrison	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		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
6 November	7 November	8 November ALL SAINTS DAY	9 November THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	10 November St Leo the Great	11 November St Martin of Tours	12 November 32 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>11.00m</u> Funeral Mass <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>11.00am</u> Mass Elizabeth Gates	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass 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.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

Parish Office Hours this Week

The Parish Office will be OPEN Tuesday 7 November and CLOSED 8-10 November this week. Then OPEN Mon 13 November and CLOSED PM 16 Nov and CLOSED 17 November.

November – Month of the Holy Souls

In November we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us, family, and friends. However, it does not end there for we are asked also to pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. During November, Mass will be offered for those whose names have been written on the special “November Mass Envelopes”. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends clearly and place them in either collection basket during Mass. Envelopes are available at the back of all churches.

St Patrick’s Women’s Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women’s Guild will be held on Wednesday 8 November 2023 from 1.30pm in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Crescent Singleton Heights. Please enter via Wilcox Avenue. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

St Patrick’s Senior Singles Group

The next lunch for the Senior Singles will be held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 from 12pm in the Albion Hotel restaurant. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

St Brigid’s Caritas Monthly Luncheon

This month’s St Brigid’s Caritas lunch will be held at Miller Park Hotel, 12pm on Friday 17 November 2023. Please join us, everyone is welcome.

Their Christmas lunch will be held on Friday 8 December from 12pm at Miller Park. Please bring along a gift for exchanging to the value of \$10-\$20.

Please see Mercia for more details or contact the parish office.

Spiritual Retreat - Muswellbrook

The Divine Retreat Centre will be facilitating a Spiritual Retreat at St James Church Muswellbrook on Saturday 18 November 2023 from 2.30pm -5.30pm. All are invited to attend. There is no charge for the retreat but a small donation on the day will help cover transport costs of the team from Sydney. Please see the noticeboard for registration contact details.

St Columban Calendars - Singleton

2024 St Columban Calendars for \$10 and Christmas Cards available at St Patrick’s, Singleton. See Julie Dries.

Advent 2023: With Anticipation and Joy

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now, and to be changed by it. To access the resource, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

We Need Your Help!

The Teachers of Special Religious Education in our Diocese undertake a vital evangelising role, educating children and young people and forming them in the Catholic faith. Fortunately, there are amazing, generous people who play an important role in contributing to the formation of children. Unfortunately, there are not enough teachers to meet the demands of all the classes needed. Many children are missing out. All training and support is provided. If you or someone you know is interested in teaching, please contact us at formed@mn.catholic.org.au

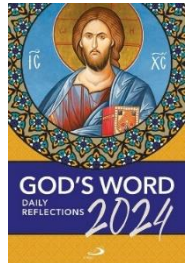
2024 God’s Word – Daily Reflections

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God’s love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection.

For \$15 the God’s Word 2024: Daily Reflections brings you:

- Scripture readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible;
- Inspiring reflections by eminent Australasian spiritual writers;
- Liturgical information for the day;
- Space to note down important events and personal reflections;
- Produced in the popular flexi-cover format.

Copies are available at each church and at the Parish Office. Please pay using the envelope provided with each book and place on either collection plate.



The Sign: 2023 Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections



Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023** - a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Booklets are **\$5 each** payable using the envelope within the book.

2024 Daily Mass Book

Copies of the 2024 Daily Mass Book are available from the Parish Office for \$30. These are an abridged version of the Sunday and Weekday Missals all in one book.

Caritas – Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia’s Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413.

Month of the Holy Souls

Mass will be offered in November for:

- The family and friends of Albert & Anne Standing
- The Winter, Janssen, Tierney and Nowlan Families
- Family and friends of G Cattermole
- Family and friends of G McMillan
- Danilla Schulze
- The Markham, Thomas, Matthews, Payne & O’Gorman families
- Family and friends of Sue McAlister
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November Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or are included with the planned giving envelope sets. Please place these in the offertory baskets to have a Mass said during November.



Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

RETURN ALL MISSION APPEAL ENVELOPES THIS WEEK

We would like to thank you again for your generosity, whether it be a one-off gift or through your commitment as a Mission Partner, through the recent Catholic Mission Appeal.

Your generosity and prayers are supporting life-changing mission programs like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where they are addressing critical health issues such as tuberculosis, malnutrition and maternal mortality.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work, where you can also sign-up for our regular newsletter.

If you missed your opportunity to learn about this vital mission program, or want to give a gift in support, please go to catholicmission.org.au/timor today.

Color in the picture!

