

First Reading

Wis 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding
fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will
quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those
who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as
they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet
them.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. *(R.)*

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. *(R.)*

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. *(R.)*

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 Thes 4:13-18

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

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,
about those who have died, to make sure
that you do not grieve about them, like the
other people who have no hope. We
believe that Jesus died and rose again, and
that it will be the same for those who have
died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.
We can tell you this from the Lord's own
teaching, that any of us who are left alive

until the Lord's coming will not have any
advantage over those who have died. At
the trumpet of God, the voice of the
archangel will call out the command and
the Lord himself will come down from
heaven; those who have died in Christ will
be the first to rise, and then those of us
who are still alive will be taken up in the
clouds, together with them, to meet the
Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the
Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these
you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 24:42, 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

The Hour and the Time

Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.' Some (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

But his warning is also for the Catholic Church which is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into our history, into our moment of time.

For example, is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women? We can foolishly remain in the dark or we can wisely try to throw light on these questions. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.

We could pause to pray that we be ready when the Bridegroom responds to the ancient prayer: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6
Gospel: Mt 25:14-30

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: *Bishop Bill Wright. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Helen Ralston, Adrian Sever. May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*

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 19 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		G McMillan
Commentator		L Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
Readers	J & S Stafa	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Gresham Family	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	
Offertory	S McAlister S Trunk	J Nightingale N Ernst	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J & A Philips	
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
13 November	14 November	15 November <i>St Albert the Great</i>	16 November <i>St Margaret of Scotland St Gertrude</i>	17 November <i>St Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	18 November <i>Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and Paul</i>	19 November 33 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	PM CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<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>11.00am</u> Kinder Transition St Patrick's	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <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>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.

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

The Parish Office changes for the rest of the month:

OPEN Mon 13 Nov to Weds 15 Nov

CLOSED PM 16 Nov and CLOSED 17 November.

OPEN Mon 20 Nov to Weds 22 Nov

CLOSED PM 23 Nov and CLOSED 24 November.

OPEN Mon 27 Nov to Weds 29 Nov

CLOSED Thurs 30 Nov and Fri 1 Dec

I apologise for any inconvenience, please have any items for the bulletins to the office by Wednesday 9.30am.

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 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

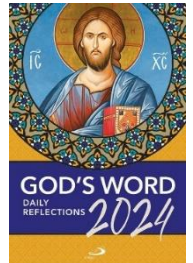
2024 God's Word – Daily Reflections

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:

- *Silvino and Victoria Diputado*
- *The relatives and friends of Tony and Frieda King*
- *All Souls in Purgatory*
- *Family and friends of Joan Nightingale*
- *Bolton and Wilson families*
- *Partridge and Coffey families*
- *Emily & Keith Johansen, May & Frank Jones*
- *Margaret May Blake*
- *Members of the Alselben, Holz and Shafer families*
- *Family and Friends of Mila Stowe*
- *Garner and Tope Families*
- *Thomas and Kenna Families*
- *AJ, EA, AF, Y Langford*
- *Margaret and Joe Clement*
- *Dunn and McShane Family*
- *Alfred and Arlene Thomas, John Thomas & Russell Rapp*
- *Daniella Schulze*
- *Crismale, Selvaggi and De Martino families*
- *Maureen Bridge, Bridge and Kellner families*
- *Stocks and Goodwin families*
- *Leo Bendeich, Adrian Stafa, Cec, Flo & Bob Crouch*
- *Members of the Bendeich family*
- *Bryan Hornery*
- *Alix Pagala, Elsie Frost & Mary Robinson*
- *Relatives and friends of Rosaleen James*
- *Margaret Brooker and Marie Hogan*
- *Sue Kelly and Janet Brumby*
- *CA Loader and J Stephens*
- *Tori Cowburn*
- *Thomas, Enright, Brittliffe and Rapp families*

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING



Our commitment


The Diocese is committed to making sure:

- 1** Our communities are safe places where we feel respected and heard
- 2** We have people around us who want us safe and will support us when we're feeling threatened or unsafe
- 3** There are adults in positions of authority who are responsible for ensuring our communities are safe places
- 4** Everyone follows the rules*

* NSW Child Safe Standards and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

 officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Diocesan CODE OF CONDUCT



The people who work for the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, whether they are clergy, employees, volunteers or contractors, commit to following certain rules and guidelines. These rules are outlined in two important documents: the Code of Conduct and the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement. These documents state how all the workers should behave towards each other and the children, vulnerable persons and adults that they work with.

The Code of Conduct says that adults who work for the Diocese will:


- prioritise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons. They will:
 - make you feel welcome, accepted and safe
 - involve you in decisions that affect you and listen to your opinions
 - take your concerns seriously and offer support and protection
 - report allegations of criminality or abuse or other relevant information if you are at risk to state authorities like the Police or DCJ (Department of Community and Justice)
 - speak to you in an appropriate and respectful manner
- follow the law and their legal obligations
- behave ethically, including:
 - respecting the dignity, rights and views of all
 - being honest and acting with integrity
 - being polite, fair, sensitive and considerate
- act professionally in their roles
- identify and managing conflicts of interest
- not accept gifts for doing their work
- not contact or chat with you through social media
- maintain confidentiality except if required to disclose information by law or policy.

The Diocese has a zero tolerance for abusive conduct. Diocesan workers must never hurt you, be abusive towards you or treat you in a demeaning or disrespectful manner. A Diocesan worker should not:

- try to meet you privately or make personal contact with you
- chat with you over social media
- show favouritism towards you or give you gifts
- treat you differently or harshly
- take photos or videos of you without your parent's or carer's knowledge and consent.

If you experience, witness or know of abusive or inappropriate behaviour, or a Diocesan worker is acting inappropriately, you should report it to a trusted adult. This could be someone in your safety network.

You may choose to tell the Office of Safeguarding directly if you wish. Depending on the nature of the abuse you describe, the adult you disclose to, may be required to report your concerns to the authorities, such as the Police or DCJ.

 officeofsafeguarding.org.au