



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

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**World Day of the Poor**

**19 November 2023**

**First Reading Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**  
A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have  
worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city  
gates.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5 R. v.1**  
(R.) *Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R.)

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6**  
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Thessalonians.

You will not be expecting us to write anything  
to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons',  
since you know very well that the Day of the  
Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.  
It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and  
peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly  
happens, as suddenly as labour pains come  
on a pregnant woman; and there will be no  
way for anybody to evade it.  
But it is not as if you live in the dark, my  
brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a  
thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of  
the day: we do not belong to the night or to  
darkness, so we should not go on sleeping,  
as everyone else does, but stay wide awake  
and sober.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4, 5**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Live in me and let me live in you,**  
**says the Lord;**  
**my branches bear much fruit.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 25:14-30**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

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



**REFLECTION**  
**BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

**Befriending Time**

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of omission – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

'There is a tide in the affairs of men  
which, taken at the flood,  
leads on to fortune;  
omitted, all the voyage of their life  
is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant... come and join in your Master's happiness.'

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A  
**1st Reading:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28  
**Gospel:** Mt 11:9-10

**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, Olga Roberts, Cecilia Rosenthal, Patricia Wilson and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

**Anniversaries:** *Thomas Ernst, Annie May Slattery, William Dagg and Majorie Thrift. Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

**Recently Deceased:** *Rudolfo Amorganda and Margaret Rodgers. May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*

**Baptisms:** *Daisy Leedham and Maverick Drinkwater (Branxton). Ingrid Nichols (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: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>                                                                                                        |
| Parish Secretary                                                                  | Mrs Erica Janssen                           | Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm)<br>Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a><br>Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a> |
| Facebook                                                                          | Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton | <b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b><br>Contact via the Parish Office                     | Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol<br>Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b> |                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>St Patrick's Parish</b>                                                        |                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Singleton                                                                         | St Patrick's Church                         | Queen Street Singleton 2330                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Broke                                                                             | Immaculate Conception Catholic Church       | Wollombi Street, Broke                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Glendon Brook                                                                     | St. Paul's Catholic Church                  | 874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b> |                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>St Brigid's Parish</b>                                                         |                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Branxton                                                                          | St Brigid's Catholic Church                 | Station St, Branxton 2335                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Greta                                                                             | St Catherine's Catholic Church              | Branxton Street, Greta 2334                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Schools in our Parishes</b>                                                    |                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| St. Catherine's Catholic College                                                  | Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol                 | K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600                                                             | Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>                                                                                                                |
| Rosary Park Catholic School                                                       | Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge        | K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541                                                              | Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>                                                                                                            |
| St Nicholas Early Education Singleton                                             | Director: Ms Madison Keevill                | Office: 02 4015 2860                                                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>                                                                                                                    |
| St Nicholas Early Education Branxton                                              | Director: Ms Alex Stafford                  | Office: 02 4931 1220                                                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>                                                                                                                      |

| MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023 |                          |                          |                         |                          |                                        |                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                       | Branxton<br>Saturday 6pm | Greta<br>Sunday 8am      | Singleton<br>Sunday 7am | Singleton<br>Sunday 10am | Singleton<br>Sunday 6pm                | Counters<br>9.30am Tuesday |
| <b>Welcomer</b>                       | E Bendeich               | D & J Clarke             | C Crow                  | J Dries                  |                                        | G McMillan                 |
| <b>Commentator</b>                    |                          | K Ingold                 | G Cattermole            | VOLUNTEER NEEDED         | H Rapp                                 |                            |
| <b>Readers</b>                        | P Conroy<br>S Trunk      | L Gorczyca               | H Ruigrok<br>S Bates    | R James<br>D Cantrall    | H Rapp<br>C Brackenrig<br>O Brackenrig |                            |
| <b>Prayers</b>                        |                          | K Ingold                 | E Thomas                | VOLUNTEER NEEDED         | A Skardon                              |                            |
| <b>Offertory</b>                      | L Waters Family          | C Anderson<br>L Harrison | VOLUNTEER NEEDED        | VOLUNTEER NEEDED         | VOLUNTEER NEEDED                       |                            |
| <b>Rosary Leader</b>                  |                          | 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                                                                                       |
| <b>20 November</b>                                 | <b>21 November</b><br><i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <b>22 November</b><br><i>St Cecilia</i>            | <b>23 November</b><br><i>St Clement<br/>St Columban</i>    | <b>24 November</b><br><i>St Andrew Dung Lac &amp; Companions</i> | <b>25 November</b><br><i>St Catherine of Alexandria</i>                                                           | <b>26 November</b><br><b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, A</b>                  |
| <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>                                 | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>                                                       | <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>                                 | <b>PM CLOSED</b>                                           | <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                              |
| 8.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | 6.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton                       | 9.20am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | 6.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton         | 9.20am<br><b>Anointing Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton     | 9.00am <b>Novena</b><br>9.20am <b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><br>6.00pm <b>SCAE</b><br>Glendonbrook | 7.00am <b>Mass</b><br>10.00am <b>Mass</b><br>6.00pm <b>Mass</b><br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton |
|                                                    | 9.20am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Catherine's<br>Greta                         |                                                    | 9.20am<br><b>Anointing Mass</b><br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton |                                                                  | 6.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton                                                                  | 7.35am<br><b>Rosary</b><br>8.15am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Catherine's<br>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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## **Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office changes for the rest of the month:

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

OPEN Fri 1 Dec

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Please have any items for the bulletins to the office by Wednesdays at 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 Parish Anointing Mass**

All are welcome to come along to the St Brigid’s Parish anointing Mass on Thursday 23 November at 9.20am in St Brigid’s Church Branxton.

## **Feast of Christ the King Morning Tea**

St Patrick’s Parish will celebrate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe next Sunday with a special procession during 10am Mass followed by morning tea. All are welcome to join the celebrations.

## **St Patrick’s Parish BBQ Lunch**

To celebrate the end of 2023 and Christmas time, St Patrick’s Parish will be hosting a BBQ Lunch after 10am Mass on Sunday 10 December. Meat, salads, and bread will be provided. Please bring a plate of sweets to share. Please place your name on the noticeboard sheet to RSVP by **6 December**.

## **St Brigid’s Caritas Monthly Luncheon**

The St Brigid’s Caritas 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 between \$10 and \$20. Please see Mercia for more details or contact the parish office.

## **St Columban Calendars - Singleton**

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

## **World Day of the Poor**



Sunday 19 November 2023 is the seventh World Day of the Poor, with the theme of not turning away. Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the elderly Tobit, who says to his son, “**Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor**” (Tobit 4:7).

The World Day of the Poor, celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time since 2017, was established by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

## **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.

## **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-life/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](mailto:formed@mn.catholic.org.au)

## **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](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413.

## **75 Years of Novena in Newcastle**

The Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on Saturday 2 December 2023 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The morning will start with Rosary and procession at 8.50am then 9:15 am Mass, followed by the Novena, Benediction and Reconciliation. Then a big morning tea to finish the celebrations.

# Month of the Holy Souls

## Mass will be offered in November for:

- Ted, Eileen and Terry Clarke
- The Clarke, Bailey and Quigley families
- Bill and Esma Burton
- The Burton, Miller and Wilton families
- Conrad Matt, Maria, Josef & Zlugnew Lodo
- Maria, Victor and Miceal Matezcuk
- Grant, Bogán and Barry families
- Friends and Family of M & G Smith
- Marie and Greg Ernst
- The Ernst and Ryan families
- The Wilcher and Klasen families
- Felix Sr, Gaudelia Dancel and Fidel Ganál
- William Ramon Yarcia, Angel and Juanna Ganál
- The Bungate, Armstrong, Daley and Donkin families
- Janina, Lucian and Andrew Gorczyca
- The Miller and Humphreys families
- Boleslaw and Victoria Szumilas
- The Bendeich and Standing families
- The Anderson and Ernst families
- The Gee and Nowland families
- Friends and Family of L William
- Kathy and Greg Dunn
- The Behringer family
- Yolanda, Nestor Sr, Felipe Sr and Agapita Maderazo
- Francisco and Leonilo Macorol
- Juliana Ganál, June Field and Peter Radoll

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.



Hope Tree  
Group

## Project 14: Martha's Piggery PROJECT TARGET: \$1800 AUD



Martha is a single mother who lives in the village of Tabora in Tanzania. Her mud brick house has a roof made of leaves and other materials, and it is in poor condition.

Martha has four children. One of her children, Monika, is severely disabled. She was born healthy in 2002, but after an illness she became disabled and has been bed ridden since. She is suffering from various illnesses and her medication expensive.

Martha cares for the son of her relative. Yohane is 11 years old, and his mother is unable to look after him as she is mentally ill. She roams in the village, begging for food and money.

Martha is finding it difficult to look after all the children and her disabled daughter. The only income Martha has is from work in others' fields. She grows maize and beans so that they have some food. Money to buy clothes, medicine etc comes from her work in the fields and it not enough to cover the expenses. Marth is seeking help to start a piggery to augment her income and sustain her family.

The funds needed to build a shed for the pigs and to buy piglets would be around 2800000 Tanzanian Shillings that is \$1800AUD.

**Let's make a difference to the lives of Martha and Monika**