



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

## Nativity of the Lord

## Christmas Day

25 December 2023

### First Reading

Is 52:7-10

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen  
the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R.)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

Heb 1:1-6

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

At various times in the past and in various  
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets; but in our own time,  
the last days, he has spoken to us through  
his Son, the Son that he has appointed to  
inherit everything and through whom he  
made everything there is. He is the radiant  
light of God's glory and the perfect copy of  
his nature, sustaining the universe by his  
powerful command; and now that he has

destroyed the defilement of sin, he has  
gone to take his place in heaven at the  
right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now  
as far above the angels as the title which  
he has inherited is higher than their own  
name. God has never said to any angel:  
You are my Son, today I have become your  
father, or: I will be a father to him and he a  
son to me. Again, when he brings the First-  
born into the world, he says: Let all the  
angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us.**

**Come you nations and adore the Lord,**

**Today a great light has come**

**upon the earth.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

Jn 1:1-18

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.*

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through  
him.

All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man  
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us.

And we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the  
Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



### Lighting of the Advent Candles

*Prophet Candle is lit*

Jesus, Word of God. Light of the world,  
Born of Mary, give us your hope this day.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Come, and be born in our hearts.**

*Bethlehem Candle is lit*

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Light in darkness,  
Born of Mary, give us your peace this  
night.

**Come, O Prince of Peace.**

**Come, and be born in our hearts.**

*Shepherd's Candle is lit*

Rejoice my spirit, in God my Saviour,  
Christ comes with healing offering us his  
joy.

**Our hearts are open.**

**Come, and be born in our hearts.**

*Angel's Candle is lit*

Light has come to us, light in our  
darkness, Jesus Emmanuel, bearer of  
God's love for us

**Come, Emmanuel.**

**Come, and be born in our hearts.**

*Christ Candle is lit*

Come all ye faithful. Shout for joy. God  
now comes to us, Jesus Christ our true  
light.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Come, and be born in our hearts.**

**Eternal God,  
may the brilliance of Jesus,  
your one true light, illuminate our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds.  
May the hope, the peace, the joy  
and the love he brings to us this night,  
fill our lives and become part of all we say  
and do, through the same Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

## Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Lorraine Cooper, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Selene Maree Stanholm-Atkins and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Eveleigh, Gwen Lambkin and Christine Turner (Fri 29/12 St Patrick's 11am). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Anniversaries:** Mary Bonser, Carol Cox, Pamela Davy, Paul O'Connor and Gordon Wright. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

*Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.*

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Year B  
**1st Reading:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
**2nd Reading:** Col 3:12-21  
**Gospel:** Lk 2:22-40

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

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## PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	

## Schools in our Parishes

<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Singleton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Branxton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries	J Dries	Counting will be done on Tues 9/1/24. Any counters available.
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole	<b>SCAE LEADER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher S Trunk	L Harrison	P Boyd	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	P Boyd	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	C & A Trunk	J Nightingale C Anderson	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>25 December</b> NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)	<b>26 December</b> St Stephen, The First Martyr	<b>27 December</b> St John, Apostle and Evangelist	<b>28 December</b> The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	<b>29 December</b> St Thomas Becket	<b>30 December</b>	<b>31 December</b> THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, YEAR B
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass Christmas Day</b> St Patrick's Singleton		<u>9.20am</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00m</u> <b>SCAE</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass Christmas Day</b> St Catherine's Greta					<u>6.00pm</u> SCAE St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> 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](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 will be **CLOSED** 25 Dec to 9 Jan (Bulletins for this period were published on 22 December). I wish you a Christmas season that is merry and bright with the light of God's love.

## **2023 Christmas Message – God is with Us**

"May our contemplation of the Christ child this Christmas fill our hearts and souls with hope, peace and joy because we know that God is with us. God bless you all and Happy Christmas." Listen to Bishop Michael Kennedy's Christmas message using this link! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnZ6A-35mcl>

## **St Brigid's Caritas Group**

St Brigid's Caritas Group thank you for your support in 2023. May this Christmas season fill your home with joy and peace.

## **Cemetery Thanks**

A very special thank you to those who have worked hard to ensure the cemeteries in Singleton and Branxton are tidy for visitors at this special time of year. Special thanks in Singleton to Terry Dunn, Adrian Klasen, Ron Nowland, Kerry Dries and Julies Dries.

## **Christmas Offering Envelopes**

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at each church and are also included in planned giving envelope sets. These offerings are sent to the Maitland Central Clergy Fund. Please place your offering on either collection plate at Mass.

## **Hope Tree Project 14 – Martha's Piggery**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Hope Tree Group Project 14 – Martha's Piggery. A total of \$3251.25 was collected from our church donation boxes, St Brigid's Caritas Group, the Legion of Mary Greta and generous personal donations. The amount of \$1800 has been transferred to Martha. We are pleased to report that the first load of bricks has been delivered to Martha's house to begin building the piggery. We will post further updates as they come in.



I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. May the Christmas Season be a blessed time for you, your family, and loved ones.

*Bishop Michael*



## PEACE ON EARTH

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST  
AND PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the prince of peace, the land where Jesus was born is not yet experiencing peace. For Jesus, peace is not just the absence of war but a lasting peace which we experience when we receive Jesus in our hearts.

As we celebrate the warmth of Christmas, let's kindle the flame of peace within our hearts and extend it to the world. May the spirit of love and goodwill prevail, fostering understanding and unity among all. In this season of joy, let forgiveness and compassion be our guiding star, leading us towards a harmonious world where differences are embraced and conflicts dissolve. May the melody of peace resound in every corner, bringing solace to those in need. Wishing you a Christmas filled with serenity and may the echoes of tranquility resonate globally.

*Fr Thomas Chirackal*

Parish Priest

Singleton and Branxton Catholic Parishes



Hope Tree  
Group

# 2023 Christmas Appeal

## Home Care for the Disabled

Sr Dhanya is working as a teacher in a special school for the mentally challenged in Madhya Pradesh, central India.

She visits villages and helps disabled children and their families. She gives ADL (Activities of Daily Living) skills to children and trains parents to provide these to their children. She gives physiotherapy to children and trains the parents to give it too. She helps them to obtain disability certificates and other government documents which will entitle them to get a pension of \$20 per month and other travel concessions. The government does not provide any other assistance to the disabled, so she provides help as needed. She assists with clothes, food, wheelchairs, and crutches and other needs.

*Part of the collections from our Christmas Masses will be donated to Sr Dhanya's work.*

