



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

First Sunday of Advent, Year C

1 December 2024

First Reading **Jeremiah 33:14-16**
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
And Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1
(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who
revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are

already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Psalm 84:8**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 21:25-28. 34-36**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

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



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now.

In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ has come, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Second Sunday of Advent, Year C
1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

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

We remember in our prayers:

Sick: Cecily Agnew, Mary Bailey, Lorraine Cooper, Mary Della-ca, Tony Ernst, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Liz Matt, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Colleen Torrington, Sharon Wood, Zoe. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Baptisms: Molly Edwards, Huxley Ragh, Molly Edwards (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Anniversaries: Noeline Cattermole.

Recently Deceased: Graham Nightingale (2/12 10.30am Branxton), Allan Curtis (3/12 10.30am Greta), Rodney Nowland, Sr Marie Farrell RSM (2/12 11am Convent Chapel).

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Mass intentions may be written on an envelope and placed on the collection plate, emailed or phoned to the Parish Office by 12pm Wednesday. Mass offering envelopes are available in each church. Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person or their family to enable names to be published.

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: Mr Dave Crawford | 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 Alex Stafford | Office: 02 4015 2860 | Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au |
| St Nicholas Early Education Branxton | Director: Ms Stella Danks | Office: 02 4931 1220 | Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au |

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024

| | 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 | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | J Dries | J Dries | J Brackenrig |
| Commentator | | L Gorczyca | G Cattermole | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | E Janssen | |
| Readers | P Conroy S Trunk | SCAE LEADER REQ M Ingold | J Duldulao H Duldulao | M Stowe | T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen | |
| Prayers | | L Gorczyca | P Boyd | F King | E Janssen | |
| Offertory | C & A Trunk | C Anderson L Harrison | J Dunn M Jones | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | |
| 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 |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 2 December | 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i> | 4 December <i>St John Damascene</i> | 5 December | 6 December <i>St Nicholas</i> | 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i> | 8 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C |
| OFFICE CLOSED | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE OPEN | OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| <u>8.00am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>9.20am</u> Mass Adoration <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> <u>11.00am</u> Mass <i>Elizabeth Gates</i> | <u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>1st Anniversary</i> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> | <u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i> |
| <u>11.00am</u> Funeral Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | <u>10.30am</u> Funeral Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i> | | <u>9.20am</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | | <u>6.00pm</u> Mass <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i> | <u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass <i>St Catherine's Greta</i> |

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.

Changes for December

Thank you to Fr John Tobin who will be saying Mass alternating with Greta and Branxton in December. Please check the Weekly Mass Diary for changes this week. The Parish Office will be CLOSED Friday 6 December and open Monday 9 December. See the Weekly Mass Diary for changes.

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice

Before the advent of COVID-19, Communion from the Chalice was regularly available at Masses in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. When Churches were allowed to open again for the celebration of liturgy, the impact of COVID continued to be felt in a seismic shift in the liturgical practice of the diocese, including the withdrawal of Communion from the Chalice. COVID, the Flu, and RSV are not going anywhere. As with life in general, we learn to live with them, taking responsibility and care for not only ourselves but also for all people. It is time to consider removing the blanket restriction on the resumption of Communion from the Chalice and leaving the decision to individual members of the faithful, who, as before COVID, make a personal choice as to whether they receive Communion from the Chalice.

As of Sunday 1 December, communion in both species will be offered at all Masses in our Parishes. To facilitate this, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are required for each Mass. If you wish to volunteer for this ministry, please place your name on the sheets at the back of the church. Formation will then be offered prior to 1 December.

New Rosters are being prepared for St. Brigid's and St Patrick's. Please let us know if you still wish to be included on the roster. Indicate on the sheet on the noticeboard if you wish to minister as Proclaiming the Word, Offertory Procession and/or Special Minister.

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 7 December 2024 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for *Christine Turner and Matthew Spiteri* and all those whose anniversaries occur in December. We also welcome you to join us to pray the Novena from 9am each Saturday.

Dinner for Fr Thomas' Birthday

Everyone is invited to come together to celebrate Fr Thomas' 70th birthday on Wednesday 11 December 2024. Dinner will be at Singleton Diggers from 6.30pm. Cost will be \$20 per head. Please place an envelope with your name, phone number and money on the plate. Numbers required by Wednesday 4 December. Please see Gerard McMillan for more details.

Senior Singles Christmas Lunch

The Senior Singles Christmas Lunch will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Please bring along a gift to the value of \$10 for the Kris Kringle table. All are welcome.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The St Brigid's Caritas group invite all parishioners to join them for their monthly luncheon in the Miller Park Hotel restaurant for Christmas on Friday 6 December at 12pm. Please bring a Kris Kringle gift for this one! The luncheons are a great way to make new friends and catch up with those you already know. For more information, please see Mercia.

St Patrick's Women's Guild

The St Patrick's Women's Guild will hold their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 11 December from 11.30am in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Cres Singleton Heights (enter via Willcox Ave). It will be \$10 per head for lunch and please bring a Christmas themed Kris Kringle present to the value of \$15. Please contact Elaine Thomas if you are attending.

St Catherine's Greta Morning Tea

Morning Tea will be held after Mass on Sunday 15 December at St Catherine's Church Greta. This will be a chance to come together to celebrate the Advent and Christmas Season together. Please see Joy for more details.

God's Word Daily Reflections 2025

The ideal companion for the 2025 Holy Year. This edition has been prepared for Australia and New Zealand and contains the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others. **To order, complete one of the marked envelopes available at the church with your name, include your \$15 and place on the collection plate. Copies can also be purchase from Parish Office.**

Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

The 25th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 5pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. You are invited to join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Federation of P&F Associations for this special Mass which is a celebration of inclusion and diversity, where everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be acknowledged. After Mass you are invited to stay for supper, where you will have the opportunity to connect with friends, old and new. Mass will be celebrated to ensure everyone feels welcome, so you are free to wiggle and make noise in the pews! RSVP is not required. For more information, please contact Lizzie Watkin on lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au

Presbyterial Ordination of Solomon Okovido

If you were unable to attend Fr Solomon's Ordination last weekend, you can watch the celebration by using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Tnv8garT8sc?si=CQrUNbK1UJVFL3TS>

The 'True Meaning of Christmas' Competition

To celebrate the Advent and Christmas Season, students at St Catherine's Catholic College have been asked to create a visual representation of the 'True Meaning of Christmas'. Each year group at the school, from Kindergarten to Year 12, have been given a theme to base their entry on. The winners will be chosen on their ability to meet the criteria: *Catholic Message, Presentation Quality and Student Effort* and will be announced in week 9. All finalists will be posted on our Parish Facebook page over the coming weeks.

Advent Wreath Lighting

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan **has been revealed** in Christ, **is now revealed** in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ **will be revealed** in his glory at the end of time.

For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament, we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he comes in glory to judge the living and the dead.

The Presider blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water.

Presider: Let us pray:
May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism.
During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds.
May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord now and for all time.



The first candle is lit. This candle is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you come among us now as we read the prophet Jeremiah's words who promised that there shall be honesty and integrity in the land.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, that we may love one another and the whole human race as you did.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, we must stay awake as you will come again as the Son of Man.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) is a United Nations (UN) observed day recognised on 3 December each year. The aim of IDPWD is to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of the 5.5 million people with disability in Australia.

In 1992, the UN declared 3 December as International Day of Disabled Persons.

Each year the UN announces a theme that gives a focus for society to remove barriers for people with disability and become more inclusive.

The United Nations has announced the theme for IDPWD 2024. The theme is: **Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future.** For more information you can visit www.idpwd.com.au



PROJECT 20 - A TRIKE FOR REHEMA

The next project requesting assistance from the Hope Tree Group is for 14-year-old Rehema. Rehema lives in Tanzania with her widowed mother, and due to a disability, she needs to use crutches to get around.

To assist her with greater mobility, the Sisters would like to purchase a hand-pedalled trike for her to use. She often helps the Sisters with their Rosary making so this trike would give her some freedom to get to them more often. The cost of the trike is \$450.

The collection boxes will be out at the back of the churches for any assistance you can give towards this project.

