



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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

8 December 2024

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,

it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels

the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song,

carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philipians 1:3-6,8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare our hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les mercifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Third Sunday of Advent, Year C
1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

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, Angela Gibbon, 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.**

Anniversaries: Jack Tierney, Paul O'Connor, Bonnie Williams, Veronica Cox, Kathleen Markham, Josephine McShane, Ray Martin.

Recently Deceased: Rodrigo Tandingan

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	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	
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 15 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 Harrison	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCAE LEADER REQ	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane	SCCC Staff	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	S McAlister S Trunk	J Nightingale N Ernst	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
9 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10 December Our Lady of Loreto	11 December St Damasus I	12 December Our Lady Guadalupe	13 December St Lucy	14 December St John of the Cross	15 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass <u>12.30pm</u> Year 6 Rite of Passage St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> SCAE 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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. Your copy will be sent to the church for you to collect. Copies can also be purchase from Parish Office.

Caritas – Global Gifts

Global Gifts
Caritas Australia

You can make a **big difference** to the lives of people experiencing poverty. When you buy a Global Gift, your loved one gets a special card and you help raise much-needed funds for vulnerable communities around the world.

Your **gift of water** can help give vulnerable communities improved access to clean water for drinking, hygiene and sanitation. Your **gift of education** can help support adult literacy and numeracy classes to help break the cycle of poverty. Your **gift of food** can help vulnerable families like Maria's to avoid hunger and put food back on their table.

Buy for Christmas at <https://www.globalgifts.org.au/gifts/>

Christmas Gifts from Palms

Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! Just scan the QR or go to www.palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop Happy shopping! And yes, your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas. Merry Christmas from Palms Australia!



Carols at the Cali

The Christians of Singleton (Combine Churches) welcome everyone to join with us for a time of traditional carol singing at the rear of the Caledonian Hotel, George Street Singleton from **5.30pm on Sunday 15 December 2024**. Accompanied by live music and song sheets will be available on the night.

Job Opportunities at the Diocese – Mission & Evangelisation

Two permanent, full-time positions are available within the Mission and Evangelisation Team (formally Pastoral Ministries). They are *Mission and Evangelisation Partner – Youth Ministry* and *Mission and Evangelisation Partner – Worship*. For more information about these positions visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions or contact James Camden james.camden@mn.catholic.org.au

Advent Wreath Lighting SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The second candle is lit. This candle can be named the John the Baptist Candle. John the Baptist was the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Baruch when he proclaimed that God will show your splendour.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you will bring us to the perfect goodness for the glory and praise of God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you call us to repentance and to prepare the way for you so that all humankind shall see the salvation of God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.



O Come Let Us Adore Him

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Singleton: 19 Dec, 5.00pm

Branxton: 20 Dec, 5.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm

St Brigid's Branxton 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Patrick's Singleton 12.00am

St Catherine's Greta 8.00am

St Patrick's Singleton 10.00am



Prayer to St Michael Archangel

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in the day of battle.*

*Be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.*

*May God rebuke him we humbly pray,
and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits,
who wander throughout the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*

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.



"All shall see the salvation of God."

Luke 3:6