



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

22 December 2024

First Reading **Micah 5:1-4**
A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be
saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your
name. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Hebrews 10:5-10**
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the
oblations, the holocausts and the
sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure
in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am
coming to obey your will. He is abolishing
the first sort to replace it with the second.
And this will was for us to be made holy by
the offering of his body made once and for
all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Lk 1:38**
Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!**

Gospel **Luke 1:39-45**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled
with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry
and said, 'Of all women you are the most
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb. Why should I be honoured with a
visit from the mother of my Lord? For the
moment your greeting reached my ears,
the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,
blessed is she who believed that the
promise made her by the Lord would be
fulfilled.'

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



REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE

*This little gospel story tells us that 'the
baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not
merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this
just poetic hyperbole?*

*We know that beautiful music can have a
wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good
vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus,
being carried by Mary in her pregnancy,
had a wonderful effect on the life carried
by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.*

*From the moment of the conception of
Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to
all human beings. The good news is that
you and I and every human life ever
conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord
Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as
Original Blessing.*

*There is a further and consoling truth.
Every mother or father who has lost a baby
too early needs to know that the same
extraordinary sense of Our Lord's
presence was felt by your baby. That Divine
Presence conferred a powerful Original
Blessing on that little life within the womb,
and that same Presence accompanied
your baby into the everlasting embrace of
Divine Love in Heaven.*

*We could pause a moment to pray using
the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
thee.*

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us
sinners*

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, C
1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

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, Jose De Sousa, 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.**

Recently Deceased: Christine Lewis and Clinton Bawden (23/12 11am).

Anniversaries: Rev Thomas Purcell, Carol Cox, Matthew Spiteri, Gordon Wright.

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 29 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 Woolley
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole		E Janssen	
Readers	P Conroy M Thomas	L Harrison	SCAE LEADER REQ P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		M Ingold	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	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
23 December <i>St John of Kanty</i>	24 December	25 December <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY</i>	26 December <i>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	27 December <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</i>	28 December <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</i>	29 December <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, YEAR C</i>
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>11.00am</u> Funeral Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.30pm</u> Vigil Mass <u>12.00am</u> Midnight Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton		<u>9.20am</u> Anointing Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> SCAE <u>10.00m</u> Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>6.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta			<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 and January

Thank you to Fr John Tobin who will be saying Mass alternating with Greta and Branxton in December and January. Please check the Weekly Mass Diary for changes this week.

Parish Office Holidays: The parish office will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 24 December and re-open at 9am on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

Resumption of 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.

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 by indicating on the sheet on the noticeboard if you wish to minister as Proclaiming the Word, Offertory Procession and we especially need Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.

Merry Christmas from St Brigid's Caritas Group

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and through the New Year. Thank you for your support during this year! St Brigid's Caritas, Branxton.

Chúc bạn bình an và vui vẻ trong dịp Giáng sinh và năm mới. Cảm ơn sự ủng hộ của bạn trong năm nay! St Brigid's Caritas, Branxton.

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 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!

God's Word Daily Reflections 2025

The ideal companion for the 2025 Holy Year. This edition 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. 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

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 Mass Times Near You

To find a Mass Time near you, check out our 2024 Christmas Mass Times list go to www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the **Christmas Mass Times** box on the front page.

Or whether you're at home or travelling, the Diocese's mobile app shows you Churches and Mass times near you. If you're looking to attend Christmas Mass in your Parish, or you're just not sure about upcoming Mass times near you, simply searching in the app by your location allows you to find service times in your area. You can download the app for free from the **Apple App Store** and **Google Play Store**. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

Caritas – Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties. There are hundreds of people injured or trapped under rubble and at least 14 people have died with the death toll expected to continue to rise. People remain fearful of further disaster, as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis. This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts.

Please Donate today: <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>

DE-CODE ELIZABETH'S MESSAGE

Use the key below to find out what Elizabeth said to Mary.

A - 20	F - 25	K - 19	P - 17	U - 5
B - 12	G - 1	L - 22	Q - 26	V - 4
C - 6	H - 3	M - 14	R - 2	W - 13
D - 10	I - 9	N - 11	S - 15	X - 21
E - 18	J - 24	O - 7	T - 8	Y - 23
				Z - 16

20 15 15 7 7 11 20 15 9 3 18 20 2 10

23 7 5 2 1 2 18 18 8 9 11 1

14 23 12 20 12 23 12 18 6 20 14 18

3 20 17 17 20 20 11 10 14 7 4 18 10

18 9 8 3 9 11 14 18

Advent Wreath Lighting **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The fourth candle is lit. This candle is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Micah as coming from the house of David and who will rule over all Israel and be peace.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, you make us holy by the offering of your body made once and for all.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, you are the blessed fruit of the womb of she who believed that the promise made to her would be fulfilled.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



O Come Let Us Adore Him

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.30pm St Patrick's Church Singleton

6.30pm St Brigid's Church Branxton

CHRISTMAS DAY

12.00am St Patrick's Church Singleton

8.00am St Catherine's Church Greta

10.00am St Patrick's Church Singleton



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS;
AGAIN, I SAY, REJOICE.
INDEED, THE LORD IS NEAR
— PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

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 Kennedy



Watch Bishop Michael's Christmas message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaFVY2pKHg4>