

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

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year C**

**29 December 2024**

**First Reading** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
*A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

**(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

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 all the days of your life. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Col 3:12-21

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Col 3:15. 16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Lk 2:41-52

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

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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



**REFLECTION**

**BY LISA-MARIE CALDERONE-STEWART**

*Picture yourself in Jesus' situation. You have been sightseeing with your parents at the festival in the big city, and your parents are on their way home. They have been travelling for a day and cannot find you. They turn around, walk back to the city and search for you for three days before they find you talking to the priests in a church!*

*What would your parents say to you? What would you say to them? How much trouble would you be in? Where would you have stayed for those days you hadn't seen them? What would you have been thinking?*

*Is it fun to think that Jesus 'got in trouble' with his parents too? Sometimes we get so hung up on Jesus as Almighty God that we forget about Jesus as a human being. What other things do you think Jesus must have done as he grew up – things we don't usually think about, things not recorded in the Bible?*

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<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b> The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b> Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.
<b>NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES</b> The Epiphany of the Lord, C <b>1st Reading:</b> Isaiah 60:1-6 <b>2nd Reading:</b> Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2:1-12
<b>MYSTERY OF FAITH</b> 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.**

**Anniversaries:** Mary Bonser.

**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

<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	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mr Dave Crawford</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 Alex Stafford</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 Stella Danks</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025

	<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	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	J Dries	J Dries	No counting 31/12
<b>Commentator</b>		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
<b>Readers</b>	S Trunk C Zaragoza	<b>SCAE LEADER REQ</b> A Humphreys	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		L Gorczyca	C Langford	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	J & S Stafa	J Nightingale N Ernst	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>30 December</b>	<b>31 December</b> <i>St Sylvester I</i>	<b>1 January</b> SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	<b>2 January</b> <i>St Basil &amp; Gregory</i>	<b>3 January</b> <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	<b>4 January</b>	<b>5 January</b> THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <b>Benediction &amp; Adoration</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Novena</b> <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Patrick's Singleton</i>
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Catherine's Greta</i>	<u>10.30am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> <i>St Brigid's Branxton</i>	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> <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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## Changes for January

Thank you to Fr John Tobin who will be saying Mass alternating with Greta and Branxton in 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 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](http://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 - 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>

# Congratulations

Happy Anniversary to Fr Thomas who on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January is celebrating 44 years since his priestly ordination. Thank you for your service to our parishes. We honour your prayers, diligence and commitment to our church and attribute much of our church's growth to you. We celebrate you and pray for your continued grace. May God continue to lead and sustain you in your ministry.

## 2025 Parish Santo Niño Fiesta



Mark your calendars for the 2025 Parish Fiesta to celebrate Santo Niño or the child Jesus. The Fiesta will be held on Sunday 2 February commencing with Mass at 10am in St Patrick's Church and then to the Civic Centre for celebrations. All are welcome to attend! Keep an eye out for when to RSVP. For more information speak with Frieda King.

## DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message

A		G		L		Q		V	
B		H		M		R		W	
C		I		N		S		X	
D		J		O		T		Y	
E		K		P		U		Z	
F									

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# 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us pause to give thanks to God for the gift of life, faith, and the countless blessings He has poured into our lives and in our parish community. I wish to thank all who volunteer in various ministries in the church. I hope to see more people come forward to take up some of the ministries.

This year is particularly special as we embrace the call to be “**Pilgrims of Hope**” during this **Jubilee Year**. The Jubilee invites us to journey together as a community of faith, celebrating God's merciful love and renewing our commitment to His mission. As pilgrims, we are reminded that life is a sacred journey, and hope is the light that guides us forward, even through the challenges and uncertainties we may encounter.

As we embark on this new year, let us walk together as **pilgrims of hope**, trusting in God's providence and carrying the light of Christ into the world. May our journey be marked by faith, generosity, and the joy of knowing that God is always with us. To remind us of the jubilee year, the logo of the jubilee will be displayed in front of the churches.

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters.

As we journey through this Jubilee Year, let us:

**Deepen our faith:** Strengthen your relationship with Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and meditating on God's Word.

**Live as witnesses of hope:** Share the joy of the Gospel with those around you, especially the lonely, the suffering, and the marginalized.

**Build a community of love:** Be instruments of peace and unity within our parish and beyond, fostering bonds of solidarity and compassion.

May the Lord bless you and your families abundantly in the year ahead. Through the intercession of Our Lady and all the saints, may you find strength, peace, and renewed hope.

A blessed and joyful New Year to you all!

*Fr Thomas Chirackal*