



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

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

12 January 2025

First Reading **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with
peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Acts 10:34-38**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his
household: 'The truth I have now come to
realise' he said 'is that God does not have
favourites, but that anybody of any
nationality who fears God and does what is
right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of
Israel, and it was to them that the good news
of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but
Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have
heard about the recent happenings in
Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he
began in Galilee, after John had been
preaching baptism. God had anointed him
with the Holy Spirit and with power, and
because God was with him, Jesus went about
doing good and curing all who had fallen into
the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **See Mark 9:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**The heavens were opened and the Father's
voice was heard:**
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the
people, who were beginning to think that
John might be the Christ, so John declared
before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but
someone is coming, someone who is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo
the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised
and while Jesus after his own baptism was at
prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit
descended on him in bodily shape, like a
dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You
are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on
you.'

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



REFLECTION
BY LISA-MARIE CALDERONE-STEWART

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

Have you ever 'followed a star'? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

Gold is a symbol of wealth and fidelity.

Frankincense is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God.

Myrrh is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn't enjoy a rubdown?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?

What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? Explain the symbolism.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, C
1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

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, Allan Seque, Selene Stanholm-Atkins, Ross Timmins, Colleen Torrington, Sharon Wood, Zoe. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Ann Payne, Sheila Simpson, Boleslaw Szumilas and Victoria Szumilas.

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.

The Prayers for the Sick list will be cleared at the end of January. If you would like a name to remain on the list, please let the Parish Office know by 29 January 2025.

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: Mr Ashley Borg	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 19 JANUARY 2025						
	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			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	A Humphreys	C Spiteri D Thompson	T Cochrane	SCAE LEADER REQ SCCC Staff	
Prayers		L Harrison	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	SCCC Staff	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	C Miller N Ernst	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
13 January St Hilary	14 January	15 January	16 January	17 January	18 January	19 January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 9.20am Mass Mercy Home	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.15am 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 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.

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice

Communion in both species is now offered at all Masses in the Singleton and Branxton Parishes. To facilitate this, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are required for each Mass including weekdays.

New Rosters for Mass at St Patrick's Church

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. The new rosters will be printed to commence in February 2025.



It's Fiesta Time!

The 2025 Parish Fiesta in honour of Santo Niño (the child Jesus), 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. **Please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you will be joining the lunch and entertainment.**

There will be raffles for the Fiesta on sale with 3 major prizes: a 12L Kitchen Couture Digital Air Fryer; 1 large Flylite Suitcase; a 5L 8-in-1 Multi Cooker as well as many other great minor prizes. For more information, please speak with Frieda King.

St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon

Everyone is invited to join the St Brigid's Caritas group for lunch at Miller Park Hotel on Friday 17 January from 12pm.

2025 Parish Sacramental Program

Expression of interests are being sought for children in Year 3 and above in 2025 who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please email the parish office with your child's name, date of birth and parish.

Prayers for the Sick

The Prayers for the Sick list will be cleared at the end of January. If you would like a name to remain on the list, please let the Parish Office know by 29 January 2025.

Mass Offerings – Anniversary of Death

If you would like a Mass said for an anniversary, if you put the date of the anniversary on the envelope Fr Thomas will be able to say the Mass on that day. If no date is included, the Mass will be said on the Sunday that the name appears in the bulletin.

Papal Blessings

Did you know that you can order a Papal Blessing through the Parish Office? They cost \$70 and take up to 8 weeks to arrive. Papal Blessings can be issued for the following occasions:

- Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation
- Marriage between two Catholics
- Priestly Ordination / First Mass
- Religious Profession
- Secular Consecration
- Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate
- Anniversary (10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th, 80th) of Marriage, Priestly Ordination, and Religious Profession
- Birthday (18th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th, 80th, 85th, 90th, 95th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103th - 110th)
- Individual Catholic person or family (with surname of the couple united in a religious marriage).
- Dedication of a new Church or Jubilee Anniversary of (25th, 50th, 100th...) for a Parish or Shrine.
- Jubilee anniversaries (25th, 50th, 100th ...) of Catholic parochial/diocesan Groups and Associations.



Contact the Parish office for an order form.



Why do we take up two collections each Sunday?

The simplest answer is that, like any organisation, it costs money to run the Church: schools, maintenance, wages, caring for those in need, projects for the spread of the Gospel, crisis appeals in the wider community.

But the Church is more than an organisation, it is a *community* with a family-like character and thus operates as such. There are no membership fees. No one is excluded from church services because they cannot pay. Rather, Catholics are asked to 'pitch in' according to their means.

The **First Collection** on Sunday is used by the Maitland Central Clergy Fund to sustain the priests of our Diocese. The **Second Collection** is used for the work of the Catholic Church within our Parishes paying for such things as insurance, electricity, water, wages, maintenance, stationery, church requisites, sacramental resources etc. A **Third Collection** is sometimes included for a special appeal such as Catholic Mission, Holy Land or Hope Tree Group Projects.

All donations are gratefully accepted but please do not donate foreign money as the parish is unable to exchange this.

MASS COLLECTIONS

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

1

Select from the pre-set amounts or enter other amount



2

Tap your card or phone on the screen, or insert your card at the top.



CASHLESS DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

A tap-n-go machine will now be available on Sundays at St Patrick's Church for those who wish to donate to the First and Second Collections using their card or smartphone.

All you need to do is choose one of the pre-set amounts (\$5, \$10 or \$20) or click on Other Amount to enter an amount of your choosing. Tap your card or phone on the screen or insert your card and enter your PIN, if prompted, and your donation has been made.

To save paper, receipts will not be issued from the machine.

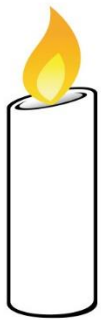
These donations will be banked in our parish account and then distributed to both the First and Second collections.

If you have feedback regarding this system, please speak to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your donation



Draw a line to connect each symbol with its correct meaning.



Candle

Symbolizes the Holy Spirit

Symbolizes life, cleansing and growth

Symbolizes purity and freedom from sin

Symbolizes the emergence from darkness into the light

Dove



White Gown



Water



The Jubilee Logo

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. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope.

That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims of Hope), represented in green letters.