

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

30 November 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **(R.)**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!'. **(R.)**

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalms 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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



LEO'S LENS

REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Pope Leo wants us to rediscover the urgency of the Church's vocation to care for the poor and fight against all forms of poverty.

We have a duty, the Pope says, to 'stand at their side and work actively for their integral development.' In short, it is not enough to give to the poor. We have to lift them up.

'Charity has the power to change reality', he affirms, adding that 'it is a genuine force for change in history.'

This aspect of the Christian life cannot be postponed. As the Pope says, 'the dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow.'

Moreover, he continues, 'the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our consciences.' There is no room in authentic Christian discipleship for 'theoretical excuses' that become obstacles to action 'to resolve the concrete problems of those who suffer.'

Dogmatic belief in the efficacy of trickle-down economics and unregulated capitalism, the Church teaches, is misguided belief. We should never fall prey to the delusion that injustice is somehow a product of the natural economic order. We Christians are called to challenge such misplaced assumptions.

'We need to be increasingly committed', the Pope emphatically declares, 'to resolving the structural causes of poverty.'

[Quotes from Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, 4 October 2025: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html]

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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.	<i>We remember in our prayers:</i> <i>Sick:</i> Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, Josè Joaquim De Sousa, Austin Hoffman, Sullivan Hurn, Dulcie Maynard, Anne McAleer, Fleur McAlister, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Marianne Reynolds, Allan Seque, Jenna Talbot, Sharon Wood, Zoe, Elizabeth and Dorothea. <i>Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</i> <i>Baptisms:</i> Leo Aubrey and Valentina Bernal Rodas (Greta) <i>Called by name to be a child of God.</i> <i>Recently Deceased:</i> Laurie Brodbeck (Tamworth) <i>Anniversaries:</i> Adrian Stafa, Graham Nightingale <i>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.</i>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Second Sunday of Advent, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12	
MYSTERY OF FAITH <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i>	

PARISH CONTACTS				
Parish Administrator	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: Allan Humphreys
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 David 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

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025						
	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8.15am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Langford	J Dries	J Dries	J Brackenrig
Commentator		M McKenzie	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	K Ingold	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane J Dyson	P Goodwin A Borg	
Prayers		M McKenzie	P Boyd	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Kevin M	
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	Joy Lynn	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Kevin & Jonathon M	
Extraordinary Minister		N/A	M Alsleben	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Borg	

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 1 December	Tuesday 2 December	Wednesday 3 December St Francis Xavier	Thursday 4 December St John Damascene	Friday 5 December	Saturday 6 December St Nicholas	Sunday 7 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
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 Adoration and Benediction St Patrick's Singleton	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass First Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am SCAE 10.00m 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	7.50am 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 contact the Parish Office for a Welcome Pack, 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.

St Brigid's Caritas Luncheon

The group will then meet for their Christmas lunch on Friday 5 December. All are welcome and if attending you are asked to bring a Kris Kringle gift.

St Patrick's Parish Anniversary Mass

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 6 December 2025 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for all those whose anniversaries occur in November and December, especially:

- ✠ Sr Josephine Morphet
- ✠ Paul Anderson
- ✠ Rodney Nowland
- ✠ Alan Higgins
- ✠ Kenneth Wild

Combined Churches of Singleton – Picnic Lunch

The churches of Singleton will come together for a BBQ Picnic Lunch on Sunday 30 November at Rose Point Park from 12pm. Everyone is welcome to come along! The Salvation Army will be providing a sausage sizzle, or you can BYO picnic, chairs and rugs.

Carols on the Green at St Catherine's Catholic College

St Catherine's Catholic College presents 'Carols on the Green'. Enjoy an evening of Christmas carols presented by the students on Wednesday 3 December from 5.30pm. Free entry, bring a picnic dinner, blanket, chairs and settle in for a night of music and fun!

Rosary Park Christmas Concert and Carnival

Families and friends are warmly invited to Rosary Park Catholic School's end of year Christmas Celebration! Join the fun on Thursday 4 December in the school playground from 5pm (gates open 4.45pm). At the gate you pay \$5 per adult and bring a picnic rug or chair to enjoy the concert. BYO picnic dinner and drinks will be available for \$1 cash on the night and lots of market stalls. And don't forget your Christmas Cheer!

Spread Joy with the Vinnies Giving Tree

Help bring the warmth of Christmas to local children in need. The St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree is now set up in St Patrick's Church, Singleton.
To participate

1. take a tag (or two) from the tree
2. purchase a suitable gift for the child on your tag
3. return the unwrapped gift to church with the tag attached

Please return gifts to church by Sunday 14 December to allow time for volunteers to pack and deliver in time for Christmas.

God's Word 2026: Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. This edition was 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.



- Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible
 - Liturgical information of the day, including feasts and memorials of saints.
 - Space to note down personal reflections, and important events.
 - Produced in flexi-cover format with attractive colour designs.
- To order, complete one of the marked envelopes available at the church, include your \$15.00 and place on the collection plate. Your copy will be sent to the church for you to collect. Copies can also be purchased from Parish Office.**
- If you have taken an envelope, don't delay in returning it as copies are going fast and St Paul's Publications have sold out.**

Contribute to the Mission of the Church

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is seeking expressions of interest from people across our Diocese who feel called to contribute their wisdom, skills and passion on one of our new Boards or Councils. With a refreshed governance structure that honours both civil and Church law, we are creating new Councils, Boards and Committees that remain faithful to the teachings and mission of the Church as well as help shape the future of our Diocese. Expressions of interest for the Councils and Advisory Boards will close on 8 December 2025, 11:59pm. For more information visit <https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross

The Migrant Jubilee Cross is making its way around Australia and will visit Maitland-Newcastle Diocese from 19-21 December 2025. The Migrant Jubilee Cross will arrive at our diocesan centre on Friday 19 December 2025. Join Bishop Michael Kennedy and representatives from our migrant communities for prayer and conversation. You can register following the links on the event page <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>
On Sunday 21 December 2025, the Migrant Jubilee Cross will be hosted at three community celebrations:

- **9.30am** Ukrainian Catholic Community – 105 Gosford Rd Adamstown
- **11.15am** Syro-Malabar Community – Our Lady of Victories Church, 262 Sandgate Rd, Shortland
- **6.00pm** Vietnamese Community – Holy Cross Church, 30 Oakland Street, Glendale

Help Alleviate Poverty with Your Used Postage Stamps

The Mary Mackillop International Mission runs education programs for Peru's poor children and training programs for poor mothers to learn useful crafts to earn an income. Funds are raised for the mission by selling used postage stamps. Cut your stamps from envelopes leaving a margin around the edge and send to *John Altham, 17 Boronia St, Kyle Bay NSW 2221*.

Caritas Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/>



November - Month of Holy Souls

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Charles McKeahnie
Heather McKeahnie
Sharyn McKeahnie
Adrian Stafa

Maternidad Panogadia
Jesus Jimenez
Mimay Joaquin

Benjamin Cruz
Benjamin Cruz Jr
Luvanaq Cruz

Lighting of the Advent Candles

First Sunday of Advent

Presider:

Every Advent serves as the introduction to the new liturgical year even though it is celebrated in the closing weeks of the calendar year. Within the four weeks of the Advent season itself, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of the one reality 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, when he comes again at the time we do not know.



For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the wreath from the 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:

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.

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

- V Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah called the Chosen People and today calls all people 'to walk in the light of the Lord.' (First Reading)
- R. **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- V Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul urges us to be people of the light and to let our armour be the Lord Jesus Christ. (Second Reading).
- R. **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- V Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour we do not expect' (Gospel).
- R. **Come, Lord Jesus.**



"Therefore, you too must stand ready
because the Son of Man is coming at
an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44