

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

6 December 2025



First Reading **Isaiah 11:1-10**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds.
(R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 15:4-9**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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 **Matthew 3:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when

he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

V Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The prophet Isaiah calls us to be a signal to the nations and to recognise the Messiah in our midst. (First Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V Lord Jesus, you come among us now. St Paul reminds us to treat each other as Christ treats us and so give glory to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (Second Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. John the Baptist calls us to 'repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' (Gospel).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

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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.	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Mary Bailey, Sienna Baker, Chris Cantrall, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Angela Gibbons, 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. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Adeline Motbey (Branxton). Remmy Taylor, Peggy-Mae Taylor, Edward Kirton (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Veronica Cox, Donna Lea, Hilary Goodwin, Kathleen Markham, Ray Martin, Jack Tierney, Jane Winsor O'Keefe.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The list of Sick will be cleared on <u>19 December</u>, if you wish a name to remain, please contact the parish office.</p>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES Third Sunday of Advent, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 2nd Reading: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11	
MYSTERY OF FAITH When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup. we proclaim you Death, O Lord, until you come again.	

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	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	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 14 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		L Harrison	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	M Thomas P Conroy	A Humphreys	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen H Janssen N Janssen	
Prayers		L Harrison	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Offertory	J & K Zaragoza	Colleen Cecilia	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister		N/A	J Dunn	M Stowe	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

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
8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 December St Juan Diego	10 December Our Lady of Loreto	11 December St Damasus I	12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 December St Lucy	14 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW <u>12.30pm</u> SCCC 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>10.00am</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>7.50am</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 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.

Singleton Senior Singles Christmas Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their Christmas lunch on Tuesday 9 December at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. Please don't forget your Kris Kringle gift. All welcome!

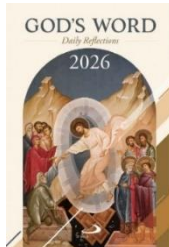
Greta Church Christmas Morning Tea

Morning Tea will be held after Mass on Sunday 14 December at St Catherine's Church Greta. This will be a chance to come together to celebrate the Advent and Christmas Season together. Please bring a plate to share.

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.

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.



Welcome Home This Christmas

At the back of each church, you will find *Welcome Home This Christmas* invitation cards. These invitations are for you, the members of our parish community, to invite your friends, family and neighbours to our Christmas gatherings. In a recent study, it was reported that 31% of non-church goers said that they would attend church if they were invited by a friend or family member. Consider who you would like to invite. Here's a little tool to use: Think of three people – someone you think will say yes, someone who is a *maybe* and someone who is a definite *no*. And invite all three - because you never know how God is moving.

You get to write the details on the back of the card – not Fr Thomas, not the Parish Council or the Parish Office. And YOU are the contact. This is the start of a journey, and it begins with an invitation – so, take a chance, who will you invite?



Dinner for Fr Thomas' Birthday

Please join us to celebrate Fr Thomas' birthday with dinner at Club Singleton on Thursday 11 December from 6.30pm. If you will be attending, please contact the parish office or place your name on the sheet at the back of St Patrick's Church.

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/>

EPIC Young Adults Christmas Party

EPIC (Everything Possible In Christ) invites all those aged 18-35 to share in the Christmas spirit! Join us for a relaxed end-of-year gathering at Bar Beach Bowling Club on Thursday 11 December at 6pm. There will be lawn bowls, bonbons, and a prize for the best Christmas outfit! Contact Jess at 0490 396 642 or follow us on Instagram @epicnewcastle for more information.

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

2026 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Course

The CPE Introductory course is run over a period of five weeks (each Monday), commencing on Monday 2 February 2026 at Mackillop Parish, Charlestown from 9am to 4pm. Topics covered include Pastoral Care, Listening, Self-Awareness, Grief, Healing & Illness and Community. The course is also a pre-requisite for anyone considering a role in hospital chaplaincy. Enquiries for this course can be directed to Fr. Roger Zohrab rzohrab@bigpond.com Find out more about Clinical Pastoral Education <https://www.nswccpe.edu.au/hunter-cpe-centre>

Sisters of Faith Dinner 2026

You are warmly invited to our Sisters of Faith Dinner on Wednesday 11 February 2026 from 6.30-9.00pm for an evening of friendship, reflection, and inspiring conversation that nourishes both heart and soul in the Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For more information on this popular annual event to purchase tickets, follow the links on the event page <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event>

Help Alleviate Poverty with 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*.

Advent & Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

ST BRIGID'S BRANXTON **5.30PM**

ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON **7.30PM**

CHRISTMAS DAY

ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON **12.00AM**

ST CATHERINE'S GRETA **8.00AM**

ST PATRICK'S SINGLETON **10.00AM**



ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be offered after Mass

ST CATHERINE'S, GRETA **16 DECEMBER**

ST BRIGID'S, BRANXTON **18 DECEMBER**

ST PATRICK'S, SINGLETON **18 DECEMBER**

Spotlight on Safeguarding – Christmas Holidays Edition

Stay safe and 'elfy over the summer holidays



You might be a decorating machine or just wanting to pop a few lights on the tree. Either way, make sure you're following basic safety steps. To decorate safely, ensure you're following manufacturer's instructions and have power points turned off before plugging in lights.



Chuck a few prawns on the barbie this summer, but don't forget the golden rules: find a flat spot and steer clear of anything flammable; have a bucket of water or fire extinguisher ready to spring into action; avoid wearing loose clothing; and keep children and pets away from the BBQ area.

'Know the Drill, before you Grill'. Be sure to check your gas connection before you BBQ - get into the habit of doing a soapy water check. Squirt your gas connection with soapy water to make sure there are no leaks. If no bubbles appear, you're safe to use.



December and January are traditionally the months the highest number of recorded road accidents. Avoid rushing when travelling to Christmas lunch and other social occasions. Plan your route ahead of time and allow plenty of time to get there.



Never travel into any high-risk bushfire area where a Catastrophic day has been declared. If you're staying in a high-risk bushfire area, the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the day on which Catastrophic has been declared. Before you travel, make sure you download the relevant emergency app for your state and check the fire danger rating for your destination. While you're away, listen to local radio for warnings and advice when you're on the road. Always follow the advice of emergency services.



During the hot weather over summer, it's important to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Sugary drinks and alcohol can cause dehydration, so it's best to avoid them.

Check on elderly friends and family to ensure they are staying cool and hydrated.



We all know how the Australian sun can be incredibly intense. Protect yourself by wearing a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with a high SPF. Stay in the shade as much as possible, especially during the hottest part of the day where UV rays are highest (between 11am and 3pm).



Over Christmas, some services may be closed or limited. Being prepared will avoid unnecessary issues.

- Check if you have enough scripts and medications to get you through the public holidays?
- If you are going away, do you have an up to date list of your medications?
- Christmas can be stressful or lonely. **The Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 or Lifeline 13 11 14** can offer support.
- If you have a health concern but your GP is closed, you can call **Health Direct** for trustworthy health advice on **1800 022 222**.
- Avoid hurting yourself or others, drink safely this Christmas. Maybe try to schedule alcohol-free days each week.