

The Epiphany of the Lord

4 January 2026

First Reading **Isaiah 60:1-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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 earth's bounds. **(R.)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(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.)**

Second Reading **Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This

mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 2:2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



LEO'S LENS REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE

Reflecting on Church teaching, Pope Leo reminds us 'that the Church is the visible sign of the union between God and humanity, where God intends to bring us all together into one family of brothers and sisters and make us his people.'

Such 'mystery of ecclesial communion,' he says, helps us to understand the need to become a more synodal Church, 'recognising that truth is not possessed, but sought together.'

As the Pope points out, the Church is called to be a place 'where relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.' Ours is a Church where a child in a humble manger shows up the absurd claims of the earth's most powerful rulers.

Indeed, as the Pope stresses, 'the spiritual life... reveals to us that we are all children of God, brothers and sisters, called to serve one another.'

'The supreme rule in the Church is love,' the Pope emphasises. 'No one is called to dominate; all are called to serve. No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate. No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together.'

[Quotes from Homily for the Jubilee of the Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies, 26 October 2025:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20251026-giubileo-equipe-sinodali.html>]

© Nick Brodie

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion. COMMUNION ANTIPHON: We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.	<p>We remember in our prayers:</p> <p>Sick: Cecily Agnew, Michael Agnew, Sienna Baker, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, José Joaquim De Sousa, Valerie Diputado, Fleur McAlister, Joanne Perrett, Jen Phillips, Carmel Tope, Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.</p> <p>Baptisms: Alexander Purdon, Thomas Trunk (Branxton). Daisy Wheeler (Singleton). Called by name to be a child of God.</p> <p>Anniversaries: Reverend Patrick McCormack, Brian Tierney.</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>
NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES The Baptism of the Lord, Year A 1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 2nd Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17	
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	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 11 JANUARY 2026						
	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	Tuesday 6 January J Brackenrig C Langford
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	E Janssen	
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	K Ingold	J Duldulao H Duldulao	M Stowe R James	T Janssen N Janssen H Janssen	
Prayers		D Clarke	C Langford	F King	E Janssen	
Offertory	S McAlister S Purdon	Lynn Joan	M George J Dunn	J Cowley C Becus	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
Extraordinary Minister		N/A	J Dunn	M Stowe	C Tysoe	

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
5 January	6 January	7 January St Raymond of Penyafort	8 January	9 January	10 January	11 January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, 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 St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Elizabeth Gates	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am SCAE 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

Our parishes acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for the land we meet on 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 Patrick's Anniversary Mass

There will be no Anniversary Mass in January. January and February Anniversaries will be commemorated at our Mass on 1 February 2026.

We invite you to join us to bring your intentions and pray the Novena before Mass each Saturday morning from 9am. If you would like to join the roster of leaders for the Novena, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Frieda King.

Combined Churches of Singleton Praise & Prayer Gathering

The Combined Churches of Singleton invite you to the annual Praise and Prayer Gathering on Sunday 4 January 2026 at 5pm in All Saints Anglican Church, High Street, Singleton. This is a chance to gather together as a community of believers to pray for our community for the year ahead.

St Brigid's Caritas Group Monthly Lunch

St Brigid's Caritas will meet for their next monthly lunch on Friday 16 January 2026 from 12pm in Miller Park Hotel. All are welcome to join them for lunch and fellowship.

It's Fiesta Time!

The 2026 Parish Fiesta in honour of Santo Niño (the child Jesus), will be held on Sunday 8 February commencing with Mass at 10am in St Patrick's Church and then to the Civic Centre for celebrations. ***In the coming weeks, you can 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 on sale for the Fiesta with great prizes to be announced. For more information, please speak with Frieda King.

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 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.

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>



As we stand at the threshold of a New Year, we give thanks to God for the gift of time and for His faithful presence with us through every joy and challenge of the past year. With gratitude, we acknowledge the significant progress made across our parish communities. We have moved forward toward greater financial stability through the sale of land adjacent to the school in Branxton, the sale of the Campbell Street building in Singleton, and the sale of parish land where the junior school once stood.

Practical improvements have also enhanced our worship and parish life. The upgrading of the audio-visual system and the installation of new fans at St Patrick's Church have made participation in the liturgy more comfortable and engaging. The painting and replacement of carpets at Branxton have given the church a fresh and welcoming look.

Looking ahead, we hope to take further steps toward economic viability through housing projects in Branxton and Singleton — two houses planned in Branxton and two duplexes on parish land, pending council approval.

I sincerely thank all who work quietly behind the scenes: our sacristans, cleaners, decorators, lawn mowers, musicians, screen and sound operators, and our parish office administrator, Erica, whose efficiency keeps the parish running smoothly.

I encourage more parishioners to come forward and share their talents.

Our hope is not in our own strength, but in the Lord who walks with us and goes before us. This New Year invites us not only to turn a page on the calendar, but to renew our hearts, our faith, and our commitment to live as disciples of Christ. Let us entrust the year ahead to God's loving care, praying for the grace to grow in faith, compassion, and service, so that together we may be instruments of His peace and love.

I wish you a very happy new year!

Fr Thomas

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.



Is someone worried about your ability to make a decision for yourself? If so, find out about your rights.

WHAT IS CAPACITY? The ability to make your own decisions is called 'capacity'. When you have capacity you can make your own decisions about things that happen in your life. These might be small decisions that you make everyday, like what to eat or who you want to see. Or they might be bigger decisions, like where you live, buying a car or whether you need to have an operation.

WHAT IS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT? Before another person decides that you can't make a decision for yourself, they must do a 'capacity assessment'. The person might talk with you about the decision that has to be made. They might tell you the reasons why there is concern about your ability to decide for yourself. The person may be worried if decisions you make:

- put you, or others, in a lot of danger or
- are very different from those you have made in the past.
- The person will want to ask if you know what the decision is about and why you are making certain choices. They will decide if you:
 - can make your own decision
 - can make the decision with some help, or
 - can't make a decision at this time.
- The person who assesses your capacity may be a:
 - family member, friend or carer
 - doctor or other health care worker
 - government worker, lawyer or bank manager or
 - person who provides you with services.

HOW SHOULD CAPACITY BE ASSESSED? When a person is doing the capacity assessment they should think about some important things that protect your rights. These are called *Capacity Assessment Principles*, and are listed below.

1. The person assessing you should always start an assessment by assuming you have capacity to make decisions.
2. The person assessing you should understand that if you can't make a decision about one thing you may still be able to make other decisions. For example, you may be able to decide what to buy at the grocery store, but not decide when to buy a house.
3. The person assessing you should never assume that you lack capacity because of how you look or act, or because of your cultural or religious beliefs.
4. The person assessing you should look at your ability to understand the decision and not judge if the decision is good or bad. Everyone has his or her own likes and dislikes. You might think that a decision is a good one, but someone else might worry that it is unwise. For example, eating chocolate cake for breakfast may be judged as unwise but it does not mean you do not have decision-making capacity.
5. The person assessing you should respect your privacy.
6. The person assessing you should support you or get support for you to help you make a decision, before they decide you can't make it. Sometimes you may just need some help, or assistance, to make the decision yourself. The support you may need will depend on why it is hard for you to make a decision. You might need:
 - a. the information explained to you or in another language
 - b. an advocate to support you to say what you want
 - c. to be assessed at a specific time of day, in a quiet place or in a place you feel comfortable.

When a person is giving you support they shouldn't tell you what to do or pressure you to make the decision they want you to make. Make sure you ask for the help you need, to help you to make a decision yourself.

WHAT IF I AM ASSESSED AS LACKING CAPACITY? If you are assessed as not being able to make a decision even though you have had support, you may need someone else to make the decision for you. This might be someone from your family, a friend or another person. They are called a 'substitute decisionmaker'. They should also ask you what you want, but may need to make a decision you don't like.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM UNHAPPY? Help is available if you are unhappy about the decisions made about your capacity because:

- the person assessing you isn't using the capacity assessment principles properly or
- you feel you can make a decision when someone else thinks that you can't.

You can get help by talking to the Guardianship Division of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal:

- 1300 006 228 and press 2 for Guardianship Division matters
- Main switch: (02) 9556 7600
- Website: www.ncat.nsw.gov.au/Pages/guardianship/guardianship.aspx

Translating and Interpreter Service - For an interpreter ring 131 450.

NRS 133 677 for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing

NRS 1300 555 727 (speak and listen service) for people who have a speech impairment.