

Responsorial Psalm. O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

ROSTERS - 26th/27th August 2017

Please arrange a swap if you are not available

BEGA SUN 9:30

<i>Commentator</i>	P Malone
<i>Readers</i>	K Jennings, J Ubrihien
<i>Gifts</i>	Bex Gabriel
<i>Cleaners</i>	L Stewart & J Taylor
<i>Altar</i>	T Tomlinson
<i>Counters</i>	T Malone & D Carey
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan & Choir
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sean McCambridge
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	F Farrell, C Sullivan E Collins, M Twyford

WISE WORDS: "God turns His face to
favour those who will demonstrate charac-
ter when no one is looking" Bill Johnson

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

- **Bemboka** - Saturdays 6pm Vigil Mass *
- **Candelo** - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sat. - 6pm Vigil Mass
- **Candelo** - 2nd, 4th Sunday - 9.30am Mass*
- **Tathra** - Sundays - 7.45am Mass
- **Bega** - Sundays - 9.30am Mass

*odd weekends Bemboka, even weekends Candelo
will be Liturgy not Mass if Fr Paul is away.

Weekdays

Tuesday	5.30pm Bega
Wednesday	9.00am Tathra, 5.30pm Bega.
Thursday	9.00am Bega
3rd Thurs.	11.00am Hillgrove House
3rd Fri	11.00am Casarina
Friday	9.00am Bega
	4:30-5:30pm Bega 'Holy Hour of Mercy'
Saturday	9.00am Bega

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

Bega	Friday, 5.30 - 6.00pm
	Saturday, 9.30 - 10.00am
Bemboka	before vigil Mass
Candelo	before vigil Mass
Tathra	before Sunday Mass

FEAST DAY - 24th August

ST BARTHOLOMEW

In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael who was summoned to Jesus by Philip.

Nathanael did see greater things. He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius after his resurrection. They had been fishing all night without success. In the morning, they saw someone standing on the shore though no one knew it was Jesus. He told them to cast their net again, and they made so great a catch that they could not haul the net in. Then John cried out to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When they brought the boat to shore, they found a fire burning, and shared a meal with Jesus. John relates that although they knew it was Jesus, none of the apostles presumed to inquire who he was. This, John notes, was the 3rd time Jesus appeared to the apostles.

Bartholomew or Nathanael? We are confronted with the fact that we know almost nothing about most of the apostles. Yet they were also the foundation stones, the 12 pillars of the new Israel whose 12 tribes now encompass the whole earth. Their personalities were secondary to their great office of bearing tradition from their firsthand experience, speaking in the name of Jesus, putting the Word Made Flesh into human words for the enlightenment of the world. Their holiness was not an introverted contemplation of their status before God. It was a gift that they had to share with others. The Good News was that all are called to the holiness of being Christ's members, by the gracious gift of God.

The simple fact is that humanity is totally meaningless unless God is its total concern. Then humanity, made holy with God's own holiness, becomes the most precious creation of God.



20th Sunday—Year A

20th August 2017

St. Patrick's Parish

St. Patrick's, Bega - St. Columba's, Bemboka - St. Joseph's Candelo
Star of the Sea, Tathra.

Fr. Michael Lim. Parish Priest.
Mrs. Tanya Tomlinson, Parish Secretary.
Hrs 9-1 Tuesday, 9- 3 Thursday

St. Patrick's School, Bega. Mrs. Jo Scott-Pegum (Principal) 6492 5500
Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula. Mr. Steve Centra 6495 8888

Ph. 64921058, Fax 64925399
PO. Box 6. Bega. NSW 2550.
Email: Bega@cg.org.au
Website: <http://cg.org.au/bega/>

WE SEE IN THE GOSPEL TODAY Jesus entering non-Jewish territory, something he very seldom does. We find him in the district of Tyre and Sidon, two coastal cities on the Mediterranean coast (now in present-day Lebanon). Unlike some of the Jewish towns that are linked with Jesus and the Gospel which have disappeared or are in ruins, these two pagan towns still flourish.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Suddenly a Canaanite woman from that region comes us and begins shouting at Jesus. We need to realise that the Canaanites were the traditional enemies of the Jews. They were regarded as pagans and idolators and ritually unclean. This does not discourage this woman in her desperate need. Perhaps even as far as here the reputation of Jesus was known. She cries out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." Whether it was really a demon or some illness which led to uncontrolled or uncontrollable behaviour is not really important. There were many sicknesses which were poorly understood at the time and which filled people with fear.

What is important is that her prayer expresses both helplessness and faith. Basically all of us are also helpless and without God there is little that we can do by ourselves. "Without me, you can do nothing," Jesus told his disciples at the Last Supper.



Her faith is expressed in the titles she gives Jesus: 'Lord' and 'Son of David'. They indicate that she sees in Jesus someone above the ordinary, someone very special. And the title 'Son of David' has Messianic overtones. In spite of that Jesus simply ignores her, as if she did not exist. Do we feel that way sometimes when we make a specially important petition of Jesus? Do we feel that he is very far away? That he is paying no attention? Do we feel like the disciples in the storm when Jesus was fast asleep in the boat? "Don't you care that we are in danger?"

The disciples are not much better. As the woman keeps shouting after them, they ask Jesus to get rid of her. "For heaven's sake, give the woman what she wants." Do they say this out of compassion for her plight? No, but "because she is shouting after us". To them she is merely a nuisance, and a pagan nuisance as well.

There are a number of lessons from today's reading. The need for total trust and confidence that Jesus really does care for us, in spite of indications to the contrary.

There is also the need for us to persist in prayer. We must realise that this does not always result in getting what we have asked for. It helps us to see more clearly what God wants for us and what really is the best for us. What we need most is not the carrying out of our own wishes but having the peace and security that can only come from our being in total harmony with God's will for us, so that his will and mine are identical. I want what he wants.

Continued over page

Thirdly, today's Gospel is an affirmation that God's love and mercy are extended to all who call on him in faith and trust, no matter who they are or where they are. That is already affirmed by Isaiah in the First Reading: "Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer." Ironically, these words, written by a Jew about non-Jews, is now to be applied by Christians to Jews and to all people of good will.

As baptised members of the Christian community we have been given special privileges of knowledge and access to God's love. But we have also serious responsibilities arising from this. One of these responsibilities is to make clear to others by the way we live, speak and act that God's love and God's mercy and God's healing are for them also.



ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH FORUM - Thursday 14th Sept, 6pm, Club Sapphire. Key speaker Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. This event, organised by Lumen Christi, will include opportunities to workshop and discuss understandings of mental health. Everyone in the community is welcome and there will be a child minding service available. Please RSVP 64958888 or lccc@cg.catholic.edu.au

MARY MACKILLOP INTERNATIONAL APPEAL. Please return your appeal envelopes ASAP.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA
STATUE**

hosted by:
Joe & Guyen Nguyen
21st - 27th August
6494 5807

LORD, Grant me:
eyes that always see the best in people,
a heart that forgives the worst,
a mind that forgets the bad,
and a soul that never loses faith in you,
Amen.

BENEDICTION.
Bega - 1st Sun. of the Month after 9:30 Mass
Candelo - 1st Saturday after 6pm Vigil.
Bemboka - 2nd Saturday at 5:30pm
Tathra - 1st Wednesday after 9am Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY 9:30 Mass Bega
On Hold.

MENS' GROUP: fortnightly on **Thursdays**
Contact David Grainger: 0409 430 997

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
Meeting is held on Monday at 7.30pm in the annex of Star of the Sea Church at Tathra.

SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION GROUP
Tuesday at 7pm Star of the Sea Tathra.
All Welcome.

ROSARY
Tathra - 7:20am before Sunday Mass
Bega - 9am before Sunday Mass
Our Lady's Grotto—St Patrick's Church,
every 1st Wednesday of the month 6pm
ALL ARE WELCOME.

St. Pat's Choir practices Thurs 5.15—
6pm Contacts Mary 64921850 or Matt
0429 338 348.

**ST PATRICK'S SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAMME 2017**
Baptisms—During Mass, 1 month notice
First Reconciliation—1st November
Confirmation—23rd July
Weddings—by appointment, 6 months notice
required.
Please contact the Parish Office.

RECENTLY DECEASED Chris Philips, Bernard Goldsworthy, John Daly, Joseph Xiet Van Trinh, Kevin Bateman, Frank Lawless, Sr Maria Goretti Pearson
ANNIVERSARIES Therese Eadie, Noa Jessop, Neville, Eric & Carrie Turnbull, Jack Boller, Aino Senbruns, Brian O'Farrell, Joseph & Mary Nyugen, Eunice Tarlinton

CATECHIST AND FRIENDS RETREAT DAY Parishioners are invited to attend the Catechist Retreat Days with Sr. Judy Bowe, mgl. Time: 10am - 4pm; Locations: 2nd Sept - Sacred Heart Pearce; 9th Sept - St Patrick's Gundagai; 23rd Sept - St Joseph's Merimbula. BYO lunch.
RSVP: kylie.bereza@cg.org.au

CONCERNED CATHOLIC GROUP is holding a further public meeting to discuss ideas as to how the laity of the Archdiocese might increase their participation in the Church. Some background can be found at: concernedcatholicscanberra.org Parishioners, clergy, and friends are invited to attend the meeting August 31st from 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: Rod & Susan Page 0401 731 918

POSTAL PLEBISCITE ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE - In the lead up to the September 12 Postal Plebiscite on Same Sex Marriage, **The Coalition for Marriage** is leading the campaign to preserve marriage. The Coalition for Marriage is comprised of more than 80 groups from across Australia, representing over 3 million people, led by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, the Australian Christian Lobby and Marriage Alliance. In order to vote please ensure you are validly enrolled with the Australian Electoral Commission before next Thursday 24 August. For more information go to www.coalitionformarriage.com.au

Archbishop Christopher has released the following Pastoral Statement regarding the Plebiscite: "It needs to be stressed that our love and care for people in our parishes, communities and neighbourhoods who are same-sex attracted is reaffirmed. This will be a vulnerable time for some and we need to reiterate once more that we are walking alongside each other in mutual respect.

At the same time, our acknowledgement of what is now described as traditional marriage (man & woman united in love and open to the possibility of children) be reaffirmed. It is one of the greatest treasures humanity has yet produced. It needs our fulsome support at this time of moral fluidity."

INTRODUCING THE LIVING WORD Receive a daily Gospel Reflections from the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn straight to your inbox. To sign up to this free service visit www.cgatholic.org.au/subscribe-to-gospel-reflection/ or follow the link from the parish website

