

Responsorial Psalm. The Lord is kind & merciful; slow to anger & rich in compassion
Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

ROSTERS - 23rd/24th September 2017
Please arrange a swap if you are not available

BEGA SUN 9:30	
<i>Commentator</i>	F McNaught
<i>Readers</i>	B O'Reilly, J Scott-Pegum
<i>Gifts</i>	Nat Seers & J Ahkin
<i>Cleaners</i>	B Burton
<i>Counters</i>	V Northcott, B Burton
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan & Choir
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sean McCambridge
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	M Rheinberger, L Stewart C Sullivan, M Twyford

WISE WORDS: "As I walked out the door towards the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Nelson Mandela



- 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

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 Casuarina
Friday	9.00am Bega
	4:30-5:30pm Bega 'Holy Hour of Mercy'
Saturday	9.00am Bega

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation	
<u>Bega</u>	Friday, 5.30 - 6.00pm Saturday, 9.30 - 10.00am
<u>Bemboka</u>	before vigil Mass
<u>Candelo</u>	before vigil Mass
<u>Tathra</u>	before Sunday Mass

FEAST DAY - 21st September
SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE


Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the "tax farmers" got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as "publicans," were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with "sinners" (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important. No other particular incidents about Matthew are found in the New Testament.

From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man others, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. But he was honest enough to admit that he was one of the sinners Jesus came to call. He was open enough to recognize truth when he saw him. "And he got up and followed him" (Matthew 9:9b).

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God,
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you.
Because you are so good, and with your help,
I will not sin again.
Amen



24th Sunday—Year A **17th September 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 *Bulletin Deadline: Thurs 10:30am*
St. Patrick's School, Bega. Mrs. Jo Scott-Pegum (Principal) 6492 5500
Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula. Mr. Steve Centra 6495 8888

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Website: <http://cg.org.au/bega/>

FORGIVENESS OF WRONGS done against us is something that many of us Christians find extremely difficult. We probably think Peter is extremely generous in suggesting that he should forgive his brother as many as seven times. Yet Jesus pushes it even further by saying, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." In practice, this means an infinite number of times. It seems hopelessly idealistic and impractical. Yet, further reflection may help us realise that there is really no alternative for the Christian and the truly human person than to forgive – indefinitely.

First, let us look at the parable which follows Jesus' words. It is a parable about a senior official who has incurred a debt of 10,000 'talents'. One talent was already a very large amount of money. It is difficult to make a meaningful comparison in today's currency but let us say, that, roughly, a talent was worth US\$1,000. To say the servant owed 10,000 talents is to use the number in the way the Chinese and Japanese wish "10,000 years", in other words, 'without limit'. Jesus is saying this official owed a sky-high debt which he could never have any hope of paying back. Yet this same official comes down heavily on a much lower official who owed him 100 denarii. A denarius was the equivalent of one day's work for a labourer. Compared to what the senior official owed, 100 denarii was nothing. Yet, the lower official gets no mercy and is tossed, together with his whole family, into a debtor's prison until the debt is paid (presumably by relatives or colleagues). When the king hears about this, the senior official himself gets thrown into prison. Given the amount of his debt, it is unlikely he would ever get out.

Both the words of Jesus and the parable linked with them throw us back to the Lord's Prayer as it is presented in the Sermon on the Mount. In the 'Our Father' which we recite together in every Eucharist, we say: "Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us." Further commenting on these words, Matthew has Jesus say, "If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done." (Matthew 6: 12,14-15).

There are two very clear messages from both the parable and the words from the Sermon on the Mount: – The first is that we dare not hold back forgiveness from those God forgives. And we know, from the Gospel, God's attitude towards wrongdoers and his penchant for forgiveness. – But the second message is that the divine patience is not infinite. God, as Jesus tells us to do, is ready to forgive 77 times. And, when it comes to the forgiveness of our own sins, we take this for granted. (Imagine if God were to say, "In your lifetime I will give you just five chances to repent and, after that you've had it.") At the same time, there is a limit to the extent of God's forgiveness in the sense that it is conditional. That condition is determined first, by our readiness to respond to his forgiveness through our repentance and conversion, and second, by our willingness to imitate him in practising forgiveness of those we feel have offended or hurt us.

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Strange as it may seem, the all-powerful God cannot fully forgive the person to whom pardon is offered but who refuses it. Because ultimately, the problem is not just one of 'forgiveness' but also of 'reconciliation'. And where there is no reconciliation or at least hope of reconciliation there cannot be forgiveness in the full sense.

Forgiving in the full Christian sense is a form of loving and caring. The problem is that people's actions towards us are seen as attacks on our vulnerability, our self-esteem. We become completely obsessed by what is happening to us and do not take time to reflect on what is behind the other person's behaviour.

A hating or angry person is nearly always a person who is more hurting to his- or herself than the object of the hatred or anger. But because on my part there is no effort to understand what is happening to the other person, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing can never really get off the ground. A person who is fully secure in the knowledge of being totally loved by God and of their own loveliness is not going to find forgiveness and reconciliation too difficult. Forgiving 77 times will not only seem not idealistic but simply the only reasonable thing to do. At the same time, like God and like the Christian community, forgiveness and reconciliation does not mean indefinite tolerance of evil and unjust behaviour. The king was perfectly ready to forgive the senior official but how could reconciliation take place when he behaved in such an abominable way to a brother? We can be ready to forgive the sinner indefinitely but we must fight against sin without counting the cost.

God and the Church can forgive the repentant sinner but they cannot condone unrepented behaviour that is a source of real evil and suffering. God cannot be reconciled with the sinner who chooses to stay in sin, nor can the Christian community fully incorporate a member who refuses reconciliation and healing of behaviour that offends against truth and love. It takes two to tango and also to effect a reconciliation. With God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and with the individual Christian, forgiveness is infinitely available but only where a mutual healing of wounds is sought, only where there is a desire to have that change of mind and behaviour which puts an end to the sinful way.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

hosted by:
Tanya Tomlinson
18th - 24th Sept
6592 4542

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 Zel Caddy, Tora Kite, Fr Mayne Murphy, Richard Heffernan, Marge Simpson, Gordan Ryan, Alice Burns, Julian Cadman

ANNIVERSARIES Gerald Rheinberger, Ben Bollard, Harold Tarlinton, Don Fletcher, Patrick O'Callaghan, Bernard John Collins, Ada Wilds, Patsy Hart, Therese Eadie

SAME SEX MARRIAGE VOTE: With the postal survey due to arrive in our letterboxes the following information is available in the Church entrance. Archbishop Christopher's latest Pastoral Message; The Archdiocese of Hobart's leaflet titled '*Pope Francis, Marriage & the Plebiscite*'; and the Coalition for Marriage flyer.

THE SAPPHIRE COMMUNITY PANTRY is looking for volunteers. It aims to provide healthy food and essential items to individuals and families, at low cost or free to alleviate the financial pressures faced by people on limited incomes. The Pantry is a not-for-profit, non-denominational social enterprise, auspiced by the Southern Women's Group, and occupying a space donated by the Salvation Army. Volunteers will be assisting with the day to day running of the Pantry. For more information please call Christine Welsh on 0438 407 364.



EARN AND LEARN STICKERS: Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers can be placed in the collection and will be passed on to St Patrick's School.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS FATIMA—Special Fatima 100th anniversary Rosary beads and rosary booklet - \$5 (incl postage & handling). To order call (02) 9715 2324 or email us at info@fatima.org.au

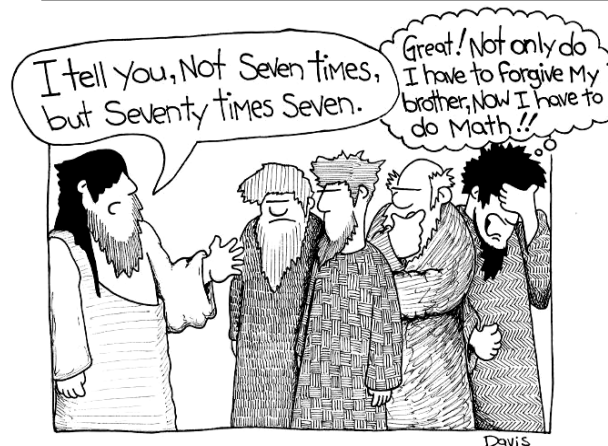
ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE: Please pray for Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan who will be ordained this Friday 22nd, 7pm.

AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION IN SYDNEY Sisters of Charity Outreach operates affordable accommodation in Westmead for regional NSW residents who need to attend medical appointments and hospital in Sydney. Contact the Manager of Chisolm Cottage on: Phone: 02 9633 4228. Email: chisholmcottage@outreach.net.au Visit the website: www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au

CATECHIST AND FRIENDS RETREAT DAY - 23rd September, with Sr. Judy Bowe, mgl. at St Joseph's Merimbula from 10am - 4pm. BYO lunch. RSVP: kylie.bereza@cg.org.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL BLESSED OZANAM APPEAL— 24TH SEPTEMBER

For the Twinned conferences of the Bega St Vincent de Paul Society. To support Bega's 3 twins in India with spiritual, cultural and financial bonds. **NEXT SUNDAY THERE IS A LEAVING COLLECTION.**



2018 Columban Art Calendars

Now available at the Church entrance. \$9. Please place your money in the marked envelope & place in the collection.

God's Word 2018

Please use the sheet at the church entrance to order your copy. Still \$15.

