

Responsorial Psalm. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
 Be watchful and ready:
 you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
 Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

ROSTERS - 18th/19th November 2017
Please arrange a swap if you are not available

BEGA SUN 9:30
Commentator P Malone
Readers Y Sixsmith, A Balas
Gifts Kath Summerell
Cleaners E & P Caragher
Counters Collins, Sheedy, McNaught
Music Matt Heffernan & Choir
Acolyte Sean McCambridge
Eucharistic Ministers A Tarlinton, U de Morsier
 E Caragher, E Collins
Nursing Home 11am J Ubrihien

WISER WORDS: The whole journey of life is a journey of preparation... to see, to feel, to understand the beauty of what lies ahead, of that homeland towards which we walk. - Pope Francis

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
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 - 15th November
SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT
 Albert the Great was a 13th-century German Dominican who decisively influenced the Church’s stance toward Aristotelian philosophy brought to Europe by the spread of Islam. Students of philosophy know him as the master of Thomas Aquinas. Albert’s attempt to understand Aristotle’s writings established the climate in which Thomas Aquinas developed his synthesis of Greek wisdom and Christian theology. But Albert deserves recognition on his own merits as a curious, honest, and diligent scholar. The eldest son of a powerful & wealthy German lord of military rank. He was educated in the liberal arts. Despite fierce family opposition, he entered the Dominican novitiate. His boundless interests prompted him to write a compendium of all knowledge: natural science, logic, rhetoric, mathematics, astronomy, ethics, economics, politics, and metaphysics. His explanation of learning took 20 years to complete. “Our intention,” he said, “is to make all the aforesaid parts of knowledge intelligible to the Latins.” He achieved his goal while serving as an educator at Paris and Cologne, as Dominican provincial, and even as bishop of Regensburg for a short time. He defended the mendicant orders and preached the Crusade in Germany and Bohemia. Albert, a Doctor of the Church, is the patron of scientists and philosophers. An information glut faces us Christians today in all branches of learning. One needs only to read current Catholic periodicals to experience the varied reactions to the findings of the social sciences, eg, in regard to Christian institutions, Christian life-styles, and Christian theology. Ultimately, in canonizing Albert, the Church seems to point to his openness to truth, wherever it may be found, as his claim to holiness. His characteristic curiosity prompted Albert to mine deeply for wisdom within a philosophy his Church warmed to with great difficulty.



32nd Sunday—Year A
12th November 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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 PO. Box 6. Bega. NSW 2550.
 Email: Bega@cg.org.au
 Website: http://cg.org.au/bega/

THE APPROACHING END of the liturgical year regularly brings the usual warnings about being prepared. We know that in the very early Church the Christians believed that Christ’s Second Coming and therefore the end of the world would come very soon, even in their lifetime. By the time the gospels were put in written form, however, this began to seem less likely. Does that mean that the warnings about readiness can be put aside?

In today’s passage from Matthew, Jesus tells a parable, partially an allegory, about something which would be very familiar to his Palestinian readers – a village marriage. Apparently ten girls would be asked to accompany the bride as she awaited the arrival of the bridegroom. The problem was that they had no idea when the bridegroom would turn up and, when it got dark, they would need to have lighted lamps. If the bride’s companions were caught unawares, if they were not around when the bridegroom came, they could be locked out or left behind. Imagery drawn from marriage was a traditional way to describe the relationship between God and his people.

The ten virgins represent disciples of Jesus, as they await his coming. On the basis of what happens later on, five are described as wise or sensible and five as foolish. Their wisdom here consists in their taking prudent steps to do what they need to do in order to come face to face with their Lord. However, the bridegroom is long in coming. The early expectation of the Second Coming has not been realised. All – both the sensible ones who brought a sufficient supply of oil as well as those who did not – “grow drowsy and fall asleep”. Thus it seems that being fully awake at every single moment is not the point but rather the overall readiness when the time comes to respond. Then, right in the middle of the night, the cry goes up, “The bridegroom is here! Go out to meet him!” Our God is a God of surprises. You never know how or when he is going to appear. For some, it is a long-awaited and long-desired announcement; for others, it creates alarm. For those well stocked with the oil of loving service to their brothers and sisters, the cry is one that fills them with joy and anticipation.

For those who have squandered the gifts they have been given, the announcement fills them with dread. We might feel that the “wise” virgins were rather selfish in refusing to share their oil with the “foolish” in such a critical situation. However, the parables of Jesus normally are making one point taken from some common experience of daily life. The focus is on that one point and other details are not part of it.

We can also say in the context of today’s parable that the “oil” of loving service is not strictly speaking transferable to others. Our preparedness to meet the Lord is something that is ultimately only our responsibility. No one can say “Yes” to Christ on my behalf. (Therefore, those baptised in infancy also have at some stage to say “Yes”, on the basis of their own faith, to Jesus as their Lord.) So, while the foolish virgins went off to make up for lost and wasted time, “those who were ready” went into the wedding hall and “the



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door was closed". All are invited, but not all get inside. All are called but few are among the chosen ones. This is not due to any partiality on the bridegroom's part but because of the tardiness of some in responding to the invitation. The closed door means that access to Jesus is not automatic or to be altogether taken for granted. And that is precisely the warning in today's readings.

The foolish virgins eventually get back with their necessary supplies of oil and find the door shut in their face. "Lord, Lord, open the door for us." In reply, they hear the most terrible words God could speak to us: "I am sorry, I do not know who you are. I invited you to be part of my wedding but you have never been with me. You have been asleep or you have been going your own way." The truly wise person builds his life on Jesus as the Way, on Jesus as Truth and Life, not only for the future but for here and now. The Gospel, understood and adopted, is the only programme that can guarantee fulfilment and happiness right away. The others all depend on an uncertain future. Such a wise person lives each day in the light of Jesus' vision. Such people find him in the most ordinary experiences of daily living – in the people they meet, in the events that take place, in the situations in which they meet, in the events that take place, in the situations in which they find themselves. Jesus is no stranger to them. He can bring many surprises but he is never unexpected. When they eventually hear the final call, "Get up! the Master is coming!", they are not worried. They are happy and more than ready to meet an old friend face to face.

It is not a question of taking a gamble on making a last-minute confession on your deathbed. A surprising number of people do not die in their beds. It is a question rather of what I plan to do this very day and every day. There is absolutely no better way to prepare for the final call than, first, to put it completely out of one's head, and, second, to learn to spend each and every day in the company of Jesus. "I am with you always."

There are two short prayers which we may find useful to be said at any time as we go through our day: "*Lord, grant that all my thoughts, intentions, actions and responses may be directed solely to your love and service this day.*" and "*Help me, Lord, to seek, to find, and to respond to you in every person and every experience of this day.*"

If these prayers really reflect the fabric of my daily living, then let the bridegroom come when he will – I am ready. Instead of knocking at his door, I will find that he comes to knock at mine. "I [Jesus] stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Rev 3:20). Today he is certainly going to knock at my door. Will I be in when he comes?



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 Joan Talbot, Mary Porrill, Sr M Elizabeth Couch rsj, Edith McDonald, Gladys Evans, Kim Hopkins, Fr John Airey, James Scott, June Douch, Gladys Hankinson, Kevin Ryan,

ANNIVERSARIES Patricia Tregurtha, Max Heffernan, John Bateman, Kevin Russell, Cec Berman, Ada Wilds, Leo Bateman, Monica Brown

COLUMBAN FR GEORGE HOGARTY has recently returned from Peru where he was parish priest in one of the poorest areas in Peru for 8 years. Fr George will be visiting and speaking at all Masses on the weekend of *November 18-19* to promote subscriptions to 'The Far East' Magazine. Fr George's profile and flyer are in the foyer of the church.

MEET FR LUKE. Fr Luke Verrell will be visiting Bega on 27th Nov-3rd Dec. There will be a cuppa in the school hall after the 9:30 Sunday mass. Please bring a plate to share.

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL NEWS: Kinder 2018 Orientation Dates: 15th, 22nd, 29th Nov.

LUMEN CHRISTIE YEAR 7, 2018 ORIENTATION DAY - Friday 1st Dec, 9am-3:20pm. Students wear their primary sports uniform and runner. Bring a pencil case, recess, lunch, drink & hat. Please note a sausage sizzle will also be held at lunchtime.

BOOKS ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE - Advent reflections - \$4.50. God's Word—\$15

RICKY'S PLACE is still firing away after 8 years. We serve tasty, nutritious meals twice a week. We are always looking for new (or returning) volunteers to come on board. Shifts include: Monday prep: 1 – 3:30pm; Monday serving/clean up: 5 – 7pm; and Friday 9 – 2 or any hours you can manage: Friday 12:30 – 3pm for cleaning kitchen/hall. Please contact Sharon Zwick 0429699493 or St. Johns Anglican church office 64925555 for more details about how you can get involved."

2018 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY—Parishioners are invited to join in the diocesan bulk order of the 2018 Social Justice diary on the theme: an inclusive and sustainable economy. Cost: \$5.60 each. Contact Mike Cassidy: Social.Justice@cg.org.au or 0412 145 088 by 15th November .

FOR SALE: available from the Parish office:
 Bibles - \$16; Sunday Missal - \$32. Contact the office or place your order in a marked envelope in the 2nd collection.

FR. MICHAEL'S FARWELL

The PPC are making plans to farewell and thank Fr Michael before Christmas. If you would like to contribute to a gift a special account has been opened and you can make a direct deposit if you wish.
BSB: 802124
A/C no: 100085724
Ref: Betty O'Brien
 For more information see Betty O'Brien.

