

Rosporial Psalm. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face & we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

ROSTERS - 9th/10th December 2017

Please arrange a swap if you are not available

BEGA SUN 9:30

<i>Commentator</i>	K Summerell
<i>Readers</i>	M Johnston, M Scott
<i>Gifts</i>	Tomlinson Family
<i>Cleaners</i>	V Northcott
<i>Counters</i>	B & E Richards
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan & Choir
<i>Acolyte</i>	David Grainger
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	A Tarlinton, E Caragher M Twyford, D Grainger



WISE WORDS: "The fact that our heart yearns for something earth can't supply is proof that Heaven must be our home" - C. S. Lewis

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 - 6th December

SAINT NICHOLAS

The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding Saint Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

Saint Nicholas is the Patron Saint of: Baker; Brides; Children; Greece; Grooms; Pawnbrokers; Travelers



1st Sunday of Advent—Year

3rd December 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

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

WE BEGIN TODAY a new Church year. So we can wish each other: Happy New Year! As usual, we begin the year with the four Sundays of Advent leading up to Christmas.



'Advent' is a word we use in ordinary English and it comes from a Latin word which simply means 'coming'. So we speak of the 'advent of winter' or the 'advent of the holiday season'.

In our case, what coming are we talking about? Obviously, it is the coming of Jesus at Christmas. And that is true but it is a little more than that. The readings of today's Mass actually speak of three comings of Jesus. All three are inseparably connected with each other.

The first coming is the one we will celebrate at Christmas, the coming of the Son of God as a human being, born of Mary in a stable at Bethlehem. It is this coming that the First Reading from Isaiah looks forward to with anticipation. "Return for the sake of your servants... Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" cries the prophet. Why does he make this call? Because we desperately need our God: "We had long been rebels against you. We were all like people unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind." We need our God to come visibly among us so that he can help us to straighten out our lives, so that we may see more clearly in what direction our lives should go, so that we can restore our relationship with our God and with all his children around us. We need our God: by ourselves, there is very little we can do. "You are our Father, we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand." Make us, mould us, heal us – that is the cry of Advent. And it will be answered in the stable at Bethlehem.

But there is another coming we must be deeply aware of. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was an event in the past, a historical event. But there is the coming of Jesus each and every day into our lives. This is an ongoing presence which reflects the ongoing presence of our Creator since the first moments our universe took its beginnings billions of years ago. He comes in every person, in every experience, in every happening. Let us not be so busy looking back at the Christmas event that we fail to be aware of his presence here and now.



So, St Paul tells the Christians of Corinth in today's Second Reading, rejoicing that Jesus has already come and what it means for our daily lives. "I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways." We too can thank God for all that Jesus has brought and continues to bring into our lives, the countless helps he gives us to lead a good life. We do that best by constantly being aware of his presence and action in the people around us. We are helped by so many people, most of whom we do not know, have never seen. For instance, just think of all the people who, by their labours, make available the food and drink we will have this day. How often do we thank God for all that he does through so many unknown brothers and sisters?

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So the Gospel today reminds us of the need to be ready, to be alert, to be awake, not asleep. We have no idea when the Lord will come to call us. Every day in the papers we read of people being snatched away by accidents, car crashes, sudden illnesses. Jesus is like a householder who has gone abroad. He has left his servants – that is, you and me – in charge of his affairs, each one with his own task. What is my task, my role in this world?

“Stay awake because you do not know when the master will come back – evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn.... And he must not find you asleep. Stay awake.” How do we do that? Very simply.

We keep in touch with those around us by each day doing our best to live lives of love, of compassion, of forgiveness, of honesty and integrity. We keep in touch with our God through lives of prayer. And the simplest and deepest prayer is to be aware of the active presence of God and Jesus permeating every single moment of every single day. “O Lord, help to recognise you and respond to you in love through every person and every experience of this day.” If we live constantly in this way, there will nothing whatever to fear. We will be ready for the Lord whenever and

Welcome Fr Luke

Fr. Luke Verrell grew up in Queanbeyan and joined the Good Shepherd Seminary in 2005. He was ordained a priest in December 2013 by Archbishop Christopher and has served as an assistant priest in Corpus Christi Parish, Tuggeranong and the Immaculate Conception Parish Tumut. Fr. Luke’s parents live in Narooma and he has a sister (with family) in Canberra and brother in Sydney.

ST PATRICK’S SCHOOL MASS: 8th Dec – Feast of the Immaculate Conception. 9am

HEARTSONG AND SPIRIT ALLEGRO combine to sing beautiful music in the spirit of Christmas. *7pm Sat 9 Dec* - St Joseph's Catholic Church, Merimbula. *7pm Sun. 10 Dec* - St John's Anglican Church, Bega. Entry \$10 or by donation.



Baptisms This Weekend: Roy Kevin Game

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.

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.

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

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

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 O'Reagan, Philip Ward, Dimitry Tiutiunnik (Mary Plevey's father) Joan Talbot, Mary Porrill, Sr M Elizabeth Couch rsj,

ANNIVERSARIES Ken Lehman, WD Heffernan, Win Storman, Molly Heffernan, Fr Anthony Grealy, Cec Berman, Jim Barretts, Patricia Tregurtha, Max Heffernan

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 9TH/10TH DECEMBER



Making dreams come true.
Last Year the Bega Conference distributed 30 hampers plus toys and Gift cards to local families in need.
We thank you for your continued generosity this Christmas

SAVE THE DATE
St Patrick's Primary School
150th Anniversary
15th—17th March
2019

FR. MICHAEL'S FARWELL'S

Bega - Sun 17th Dec after 9.30am Mass
Bemboka - Sat 9th Dec after 6pm Mass
Candelo - Sat 16th Dec after 6pm Mass
Please bring a plate to share

Tathra - Tues 12th Dec - 6pm Beach Café.
Names and money need to be given to Pat by 6th Dec.

Contributions to a gift can be given to Betty O'Brien; sent to the Parish office to be passed on or directly deposited into the following account.

BSB: 802-124 A/C no: 100085724
Ref: Betty O'Brien
For more information see Betty O'Brien.

Christmas Mass Times 2016

Bega	6.00pm	Family Vigil
Tathra	8.00pm	Vigil
Bemboka	7.00pm	Vigil
Candelo	Midnight	
Bega	8.30am	Christmas Day

Penitential Service:

Sat 9th Dec at Bemboka before 6pm mass.
Tues 19th Dec 7.00pm second rite at St Patrick's church Bega.
Wed 20th Dec at Tathra after the 9am mass



“Yes, Mabel, it is very festive...
But Advent wreaths are only supposed to have four candles

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES OF THE SAPPHIRE COAST ROHINGYA CHALLENGE. The advocates are taking donations on behalf of the Red Cross for the Rohingya Refugees. They will match donations up to \$5000 and the Federal Government are matching all Red Cross donations. Donations can be made at the **Bendigo Bank Bega BSB633-000, A/C 157357567.** Please see the poster for more details.

SAPPHIRE COAST COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Helpers needed to set up, serve and pack away at Merimbula, Eden or Bega. For more information call **Janita Fernando 0427 298 432** or see the poster. ALL WELCOME



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.