

Responsorial Psalm. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes from God.

ROSTERS - 16th/17th December 2017
Please arrange a swap if you are not available

BEGA SUN 9:30	
<i>Commentator</i>	J Lott
<i>Readers</i>	C Sullivan, R Sheehan
<i>Gifts</i>	B Tygh
<i>Cleaners</i>	B Burton
<i>Counters</i>	T & M Collins
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan & Choir
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sean McCambridge
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	E Collins, M Holzhauser U de Morsier, Sean McC
<i>Nursing Home 11am</i>	R Healey

WISE WORDS: If a man wishes to be sure of the road he treads on, he must close his eyes & walk in the dark - St John of the Cross



- 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 - 11th December
SAINT DAMASUS

For Damasus, internal political struggles, doctrinal heresies, uneasy relations with his fellow bishops and those of the Eastern Church marred the peace of his pontificate.
He was the son of a priest, who followed his father into the church. Damasus served Pope Liberius (352-366) and followed him into exile. When Liberius died, Damasus was elected bishop of Rome; but another deacon, Ursinus, was also elected pope. The controversy between Damasus and Ursinus resulted in violent battles, scandalizing all. Damasus even had to clear himself before a civil court & a synod.
As pope, his lifestyle was simple in contrast to others, and he was fierce in his denunciation of Arianism & other heresies. A misunderstanding of the Trinitarian terminology used by Rome threatened relations with the Eastern Church, and Damasus was only moderately successful in dealing with that challenge.

During his pontificate, Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman state, and Latin became the principal liturgical language. His encouragement of St Jerome's biblical studies led to the Vulgate, the Latin translation of Scripture which 12 centuries later the Council of Trent declared to be "authentic in public readings, disputations, preaching."
The history of the papacy and Church is inextricably mixed with the personal biography of Damasus. In a troubled and pivotal period of Church history, he stands forth as a zealous defender of the faith who knew when to be progressive and when to entrench. Damasus makes us aware of two qualities of good leadership: alertness to the promptings of the Spirit and service. His struggles are a reminder that Jesus never promised his Rock protection from hurricane winds nor his followers immunity from difficulties. His only guarantee is final victory.



2nd Sunday of Advent—Year **10th 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 CONTINUE OUR PREPARATIONS for the coming of Jesus. That is, we are preparing to celebrate his coming among us as a new-born baby in Bethlehem, [i.e. took on our weak and fragile human nature] and came to live among us. Today's Gospel tells us to prepare for that coming, that remembering, that celebrating. It does so by speaking about John the Baptist preparing people to welcome the coming of Jesus as he begins his public life, his mission.



John had already becoming a famous person in his own right. That is clear from the number of people who came out to see him & that he attracted the attention of King Herod & of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. He led a very austere life in the desert, dressed in rough clothes made of camel skin. No designer clothes for him. He fed on locusts & wild honey & fasted as well (the Gospel tells us this in contrast to Jesus). John was clearly a man of God & the people admired & trusted him as a person of holiness & integrity. He taught them, bluntly made them aware of their sinfulness & called on them to "Repent". Repent here does not mean just being sorry for the past. It is a call for them to do much more than that, to change their ways. To **repent** in the Gospel involves a radical transformation in our way of living. It means a conversion, a real turning around, a re-directing of one's whole life.

- There are two things we can learn here which are relevant to our Christmas preparation:
- a.** We ourselves need to prepare for the coming of Jesus. And not just by a pre-Christmas confession to tidy ourselves up and get rid of some of the things we regret having done in recent months. Peter, in today's 2nd Reading, tells us that a "day" with the Lord can be a 1,000 years. This is probably directed at those who thought (and perhaps feared) that the Lord was coming soon. "The Lord is not being slow in carrying out his promises [to come again], as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody be brought to change their ways." In other words, if the end of the world seems so slow in coming, it is to give people time to mend their ways, to redirect their lives. At the same time, he also warns that the coming can be very sudden, as we all know is very true. We all know people who have been taken away from us very suddenly, without warning. Let us reflect then at this time on what changes we should make in our own lives, not just now but in the year that is to come. What kind of person would I like to be? What kind of person should I be? What kind of person could I be? What kind of person do I think God would like me to be?
 - b.** John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus to come into our lives. The 1st Reading speaks about filling in valleys, smoothing out mountains and hills, transforming cliffs into plains, & ridges into valleys. In other words, removing all the obstacles that get in the way of our meeting with Jesus. Then "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it".

That is also our role as Christians. It is only through what we say and do that others can come to know Jesus. So many people we know face many obstacles in getting to know the real Jesus and, to be honest, sometimes we ourselves are those obstacles.

So, there are two wonderful ways to prepare for Christmas:

Personal conversion. What better present could I give myself? Leading someone else to know and experience the love of Jesus. What better present could I give to another person?

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.

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.

DID YOU KNOW that the parish bulletin can be found on our website. Been away or lost a bulletin visit cg.org.au/bega Baptism request forms can also be downloaded.



NEW YEARS EVE: St Patrick's Chapel—adoration 11am; Mass Midnight.
FEAST MARY, HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD: Mass, January 1st, St Patrick's 9am.



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.

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.



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 2018

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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED Fr Paul Tarpey, Joan O'Reagan, Philip Ward, Dimitry Tiutiunnik (Mary Plevey's father) Joan Talbot, Mary Porritt, Sr M Elizabeth Couch

ANNIVERSARIES Mick Tygh, Ken Lehman, WD Heffernan, Win Storman, Molly Heffernan, Fr Anthony Greal, Cec Berman, Jim Barretts, Patricia Tregurtha

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND



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

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



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.



PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE Fr Praveen Paul from 15 August 2018 to 1 September 2018. www.magiholidays.com.au For further details please contact Corpus Christi Parish Office on 6291 6688 or tuggeranongsouth@cg.org.au

PRAYER FOR TRAGEDY

Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent tragedies. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief & loss. Bring them consolation & comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived & heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the days ahead.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, and in comfort to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of all the community. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.