

Rosporial Psalm. My Soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, out God will come, and he will save us.

ROSTERS - 23rd/24th December 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>	Bex Gabriel
<i>Cleaners</i>	J Morrow
<i>Counters</i>	Fr Michael
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan & Choir
<i>Acolyte</i>	Frank Farrell
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	C Tarlinton, B Burton M Twyford, E Caragher

Rejoice

WISE WORDS: Joy is the serious business of heaven— 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

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

FEAST DAY - 23rd December

SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life.

He was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. He made four pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.

John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas is a good time at least to reject self-indulgence



3rd Sunday of Advent—Year

17th 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/>

ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY of the Advent season, the theme is traditionally one of joy. This is a tradition coming down from the Latin Mass when the first word of the Introit or entrance antiphon was "Gaudete" (rejoice, be glad). And so this Sunday has come to be known as "Gaudete Sunday".

And why should we be rejoicing? Because we are soon to remember that the Son of God, Jesus the Christ, came to live among us as a human being and be one of us. "And the Word [who has the nature of God] became a human being and lived [literally 'pitched his tent'] among us" (John 1:14). And further, we rejoice because he the Lord brings such good news. The First Reading quotes, from the prophet Isaiah, a text which Jesus, in Luke's gospel, will apply to himself: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me for the Lord has anointed me." In so speaking, Jesus clearly identifies himself with the anointed king who is the Messiah and Saviour of God's people. And why has he come? Why has he been sent? "He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of grace from the Lord."

The Scriptures, written at a time when poverty and suffering were the lot of the majority, certainly speak of those who are materially poor, of those who are really rotting (often unjustly) in prisons, those who are physically handicapped – the blind, the lame and those afflicted with diseases like leprosy (with its concomitant alienation and marginalisation from ordinary society). And there are still all too many places in our high-tech world where the situation of hundreds of millions has not yet changed in this regard. But, even for those of us who live in islands of abundance and prosperity, there are other forms of poverty (social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual); other forms of captivity (compulsions, obsessions, addictions, trapped in consumerism...); the blindness and deafness of those who can see no real life meaning in all of the plenty they pursue; the dumbness of those who have nothing constructive or creative to say; the lameness of those who are socially and emotionally crippled, who play at sex but do not know love; and the leprosy of isolation and loneliness in the midst of the crowds.



If the Lord has really come to liberate us from all of this, then we surely have cause to rejoice. "I exult for joy in the Lord...for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity." The coming of Jesus is a promise to all of us of salvation, that is, a real wholeness and integrity in our lives, which is the complete opposite of lives fragmented by fear and the never-satisfied desire to possess.

And it is this wholeness and integrity that is salvation and not just getting a last-minute passport on our deathbed to play a harp forever in the clouds. Salvation is a real experience which we are all being called to share in our lives here and now. If we have not yet had that experience, then we can say that Christmas has never really come into our lives. We have not really met Jesus yet, the Jesus who makes us whole, who frees us from our forms of captivity.

Continued over page

In this we have the example of John the Baptist who is the focus of the Gospel passage from the Prologue of John's gospel. "A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light." We have here a clear assertion of the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus. Jesus is the light and John is a witness to the light. It might be helpful for us to re-read those opening verses of today's Gospel and replace the name of John with our own name. What it says should be just as true of every baptised person as it is of John.

For each one of us, by our baptism and our membership in Christ's family, has been sent not, obviously, to be the original Light but to give witness to the Light. The Sermon on the Mount speaks of us as "the light of the world". We are to be the light in the same way as the moon is in its reflection of the sun. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives through Jesus we need also to remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means to bring Jesus into other people's lives.

At Christmas time our city is bathed in light. But so many have no idea that this light symbolises our Lord Jesus, the Light of the World, born among us at this time. And we may ask ourselves into the lives of how many people this Christmas will we bring the Light of Jesus? How many will experience Jesus being reborn within them through our witnessing?

There are so many people out there who live in darkness. There are so many who are poor in so many ways, even though financially well-off. So many who lack real freedom, the freedom to choose truth and love in all they do and say. So many who are deafened by the consumerist din around them. So many, in the midst of all the superficial jollity, who feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, marginalised. So many broken hearts amid all the party-going. There are people who simply hate Christmas because it only increases their inner pain and deep sadness.

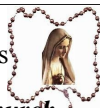
So many out there are waiting. Waiting for us to shine the light of Christ on them and to turn their lives into experiences of joy, of wholeness and integrity. The joy of Jesus, the joy of Christmas can only be ours to the extent that we work with Jesus to bring that joy into the lives of others too.



*Baptisms This Weekend:
Maeve Rose Kettle; Lana Maree Venables;
Wendy, Rory & Eloise Deighton*

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

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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED Fr Paul Tarpey, Joan O'Reagan, Philip Ward, Dimitry Tiutiunnik (Mary Plevey's father) Joan Talbot, Mary Porrill, Sr M Elizabeth Couch
ANNIVERSARIES Mick Tygh, Ken Lehman, WD Heffernan, Win Storman, Molly Heffernan, Fr Anthony Grealy, Cec Berman, Jim Barretts, Patricia Tregurtha

Christmas Mass Times 2017

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



FEAST MARY, HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD: Mass, January 1st, St Patrick's 9:30am. Please Note—there is **no** midnight mass on 31st Dec.

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.

SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST: You are invited to a living encounter and a life transforming experience with the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit from the *9th to the 11th February 2018*. **9th - St Monica's Church:** Evatt from 7—9pm. **10th & 11th - St Brigid's Church:** Dickson from 10am to 5.30pm. Conducted by Br Lalith Perera, Archbishop Christopher & Fr Ken Barker with support from Fr Bernie Patterson & Loi Viovicente. Lunch will be available at a nominal price or BYO. A crèche is available. Contact: Shan 0412 310364; Karen 0402 160401; Sean 0448 510237.



RENAISSANCE OF MARRIAGE - NATIONAL CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: Featuring Dr Gregory Bottaro (USA), Christina King (USA), Bishop Eugene Hurley, Jonathan Doyle, Robert Falzon, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Byron & Francine Pirola and many more. **Feb 16-17, 2018** | Sydney (UNDA) For more information www.rom.org.au

EVENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
walk through my house,
take away all of my worries,
watch over my family,
bring quiet where there is chaos,
bring light where there is darkness,
and put love where there is emptiness.
In the name of Jesus... Amen.