

Entrance Antiphon Drop dew down from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

Responsorial Psalm For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will be done.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

ROSTERS - 30th/31st December 2023
Please arrange a swap if you are not available

Bemboka Sat 6pm

Commentator S Berman
Readers H Allen
Cleaners

Candelo Sat

Commentator Ann Haesy
Readers K Dodds
Cleaners - Dec Lorraine & Simon Thompson

Tathra Sun 7:45am

Commentator Gerry Collins
Readers Pat Platts
Cleaners Pat Platts
Audio-Visual Trish Sly
Eucharistic Ministers Pat Platts, Denise Miller

Bega Sun 9:30am

Commentator M Henare
Readers E Attram
Gifts Volunteer
Counters Col & Kath Murohy
Music Matt Heffernan
Acolyte Frank Farrell
Eucharistic Ministers B Larkin

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

Bega Saturday, 9.40 - 10am
Bemboka before vigil Mass
Candelo before vigil Mass
Tathra before Sunday Mass

St Patrick's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the rights and dignity of all our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families & carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all our thinking and actions. Parishioners are encourage to communicate concerns by emailing Fr Adrian, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Officer or directly to IPSS (ipss@cg.org.au)

St. Pat's Choir practices Thurs 5.15—6pm
Contacts Mary 0428 471 012 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.

ROSARY - all are welcome

Tathra - 7:20am before Sunday Mass
Bega - 9am before Sunday Mass

MENS' GROUP: 2nd & 4th Thursdays

St Patrick's Church.
Contact David Grainger: 0409 430 997

St Patrick's Sacramental Programme

Baptisms—During Mass, 1 month notice
Reconciliation—26th May 2024
First Communion - 25th August 2024
Weddings—by appoint, 6 months notice req.
Please contact the Parish Office.

For Sale: Sunday Missal - \$32; Children's Mass Book - \$10. Contact the office or place your order in a marked envelope in the 2nd collection. **Bulletin & Forms** can be found on the website



4th Advent - Year B

24th December 2023

St. Patrick's Parish

St. Patrick's, Bega - St. Columba's, Bemboka - St. Joseph's Candelo
Star of the Sea, Tathra.

Fr. Adrian Chan. Parish Priest.
Mrs. Tanya Tomlinson, Parish Secretary.
Hrs 9-2 Tuesday & Thursday *Bulletin Deadline: Thurs 10:30am*
Safeguarding, Mrs. Emma Grant, Bega.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
St. Patrick's School, Bega. Mrs. Jo Scott-Pegum (Principal) 6492 5500
Lumen Christi (LCCC), Pambula. Mr. Shane Giles 6495 8888

Ph. 64921058
PO. Box 6. Bega. NSW 2550.
Email: Bega@cg.org.au
Website: <http://cg.org.au/bega/>
Facebook: St Patricks Bega

We acknowledge the Yuin People, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon & cared for this land for thousands of years. We pay our respect to Elders past, present & emerging. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of the Bega Valley.

Turn of the Knob.

If the first sign of maturity is discovering that the volume knob also turns to the left, perhaps the first sign of spiritual maturity is discovering that God knows how to turn the knob. Today's First Reading says as much when God tells Nathan to say to David: 'Are you the one to build me a house to live in?' In other words: 'Do you think that I need you?'

We can forget that God rules, not us. Our Second Reading shows God at work within human history as it talks of the mystery kept hidden for long ages but now disclosed. God creates the mystery, keeps it a mystery, and in God's own good time reveals it. Our emptiness may be God's purpose being fulfilled - though not as we expect it. What seems like inactivity, or indifference, on God's part in the face of human tribulation may be God's wisdom at work waiting for the opportune time to act - a time constrained by human freedom and its consequences. We need humility to admit that we don't know it all and can be wrong in our judgements. And we need trust to accept that God's judgement is never wrong.



God wasn't wrong in choosing a manger instead of a throne, in choosing faithfulness to the mission over personal safety, in accepting death on a cross rather than public acclaim based on false hopes. God wasn't wrong because these ended in resurrection and glory. But no one could see it at the time.

This Advent, can we?

Fr. Tom Cahill svd

Note for readers please pause 20 seconds in between readings for respectful silence - thank you.

Parish Office Closure. The Parish Office will be closed in January. Re-opening January 30th 9am. Phone and Emails will be checked periodically.

2024 Sacramental Programme. To enrol children in year 3 and above in the sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion please use the link or QR: <https://forms.gle/BNbWYy1s4xEZ71VY7>



Vinnies Store. The Bega Vinnies stores is planning to reopen on Monday 22nd January. They would like to thank everyone for their patience during this period.

Christmas Collection. This year 2 collections will be taken at the Christmas Masses. The first is for our priests including the Christmas offering envelopes. The 2nd Collection is for the Archbishops Christmas appeal. Help lifesaving assistance to refugees fleeing violence; including evacuation, food, shelter as well as student assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Communities in India, Africa and the Solomon Islands are also assisted

Christmas Mass Times 2023

Christmas Eve - 24th
Bega 6:00pm (Carols from 5:30pm)
Bemboka 9:00pm
Christmas Day - 25th
Tathra 7:45am
Candelo 10.00am



Wise Words:

During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith and receive with open hearts the love of God. - *Pope Francis*



You're Invited

- ✦ *Tathra* - Breakfast every 2nd Sunday of the Month after Mass.
- ✦ *Bega* - Morning Tea last Sunday of the Month after Mass Bega.

All Welcome. Please bring a friend.

Fr Adrian Contact: Mobile: 0411 676 064
Email: Adrian.Chan@cg.org.au

Sunday Mass Times

- *Bemboka* - Saturdays - 6pm Vigil
- *Candelo* - Saturdays - 6pm Vigil 1st, 3rd, 5th
- Sundays - 9:30am liturgy 2nd, 4th
- *Tathra* - Sundays - 7.45am Mass
- *Bega* - Sundays - 9.30am Mass
- 4th Sunday- 9:30am Family Mass

Weekdays

- Tuesday 5.00pm Bega Church
- Wednesday 9.00am Tathra.
- Thursday 9.15am Bega Church
- *Hillgrove House 3rd Thursday 3pm*
- Friday 9.15am Bega Church
4:30-5:30pm Bega 'Holy Hour of Mercy'
- Saturday 9.15am Bega Church

RECENTLY DECEASED: Frank Elton, Alan Hart, Vincent Ford, Les Maley

ANNIVERSARIES Rita Heffernan, John Beatty, Kevin Wilds, Mick Tygh

PRAYERS Hugo D'Arcy and his family
Noah Smith - operation in Sydney

Feasts Days

- 26th - St Stephen**, The First Martyr, died in Jerusalem about 35. Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people".
- 27th - St John**, Apostle & Evangelist. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.
- 28th - The Holy Innocents.** In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.
- 29th - St Thomas Becket**, Bishop & Martyr 1118-1170. Remembered for the courage of his Christian convictions.

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE 2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE LOVE ALWAYS TRIUMPHS

The birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness. The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable.

The surrounding "night" is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib – all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the "Prince of Peace" here.

This pattern continues even today.

There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity – here darkness is chosen over the light of love and peace-making.

There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum.

Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones.

Yet, in the midst of these many darknesses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God – Jesus, love itself.

Let us in silence and adoration invite this Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities!

Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

