

**Entrance Antiphon** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**Responsorial Psalm** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon** I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**ROSTERS - 25th/26th February 2023**  
Please arrange a swap if you are not available

<b>Bemboka Sat 6pm</b>	
<i>Commentator</i>	J Guthrie
<i>Readers</i>	M Guthrie
<i>Gifts</i>	
<i>Cleaners</i>	Allen
<b>Candelo Sun 9am</b>	
<i>Commentator</i>	Ann Haesy
<i>Readers</i>	R Coman
<i>Gifts</i>	
<i>Cleaners - Feb</i>	Sharon & David Heffernan
<b>Tathra Sun 7:45am</b>	
<i>Commentator</i>	Neil Walker
<i>Readers</i>	Claire Walker
<i>Gifts</i>	
<i>Cleaners</i>	Pat Platts
<i>Audio-Visual</i>	Kate D'Arcy
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Eileen Reckord, M Hergenhan
<b>Bega Sun 9:30am</b>	
<i>Commentator</i>	Family Mass
<i>Readers</i>	Family Mass
<i>Gifts</i>	Family Mass
<i>Counters</i>	Vinnies
<i>Music</i>	Matt Heffernan
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sean McCambridge
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	D Koenigkamp B Tygh, L Stewart

**Wise Words:**

With the weapons of love, God has defeated selfishness and death.  
His Son Jesus is the door of mercy wide open to all  
- Pope Francis



**Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation**

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

**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**

*Tathra* - 7:20am before Sunday Mass  
*Bega* - 9am before Sunday Mass  
**all are welcome.**



**MENS' GROUP: 2nd & 4th Thursdays**

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

**St Patrick's Sacramental programme 2023**

*Baptisms*—During Mass, 1 month notice  
*Confirmation*—28th May  
*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

**Live in the Law of Love**



7th Ordinary - Year A

12th February 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*  
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

**The New Law**

*7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



We continue where we left off last week. Jesus is offering us a new ethic, a new way of life that goes beyond the bare minimums listed in the Ten Commandments. 'You have learnt how it was said ... but I say to you.' We all know the saying 'An eye for an eye'. In fact, many people appeal to this maxim to justify their actions. We have translated it into modern English: 'Don't get mad. Get even'. Talk about getting the wrong end of the stick! Yes, it is to be found in the ancient Jewish law in Exodus, and even earlier in the law code of Hammurabi, the 18th-century BC Babylonian king, but when Jesus quotes these words, it is to reject them, not endorse them. An eye for an eye is not the way that leads to life. As Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have said, 'An eye for an eye ends up making the whole world blind'. In the case of the old 'eye for an eye', it was a matter of being proportionate: of moving from a life for an eye to an eye for an eye. Jesus takes us beyond proportionate response into the world of non-retaliation. God demands perfection from us. It is not the perfection of being even more legalistic than the scribes and Pharisees, but a perfection that comes from allowing God to enter our lives, to heal every one of our ills, to have our sins removed from east to west.

To me this has always been one of the key characteristics of Christianity. Turning the other cheek and going the extra mile are at the heart of what it is to live a Christian life. It is so easy to strike back. We see it in children from infancy. You push me and I will push you, you tease me and I will tease you, you punch me and I will punch you. It is little wonder then that in our grown-up world we find: if you attack me, I will attack you; and if you bomb me, I will bomb you. People who otherwise call themselves Christians engage in this behaviour. Have they heard Jesus' words, 'Love your enemies'? Do they not realise that every person deserves respect because each of us is God's temple, and each of us has God's Spirit dwelling within us?

Augustine of Hippo preached on this text of Matthew. He said: 'When God admonishes us to love one another, is this all he teaches: that you should love the one who loves you? This mutual love does not satisfy God, for he wants us to attain to loving our enemies'.

God is the enemy of sin and yet God loves the sinful person, so much so that Jesus gave his life for sinners. For at the heart of God is a love that is forgiving and merciful. In the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus himself taught us to pray, we acknowledge that we need God's forgiveness, yet we ask that God forgive us only to the extent that we are prepared to forgive others. We cannot expect the mercy of God to be shown to us unless we are truly transformed by it and allow it to flow through us to others. Our world will not believe in a God who forgives unless they see God's forgiveness at work through the way we forgive.

We can be thankful today that our God does forgive. We can be thankful that God does not punish us as we deserve, that God does not take eye for eye or tooth for tooth. We can be thankful that God does not consider us an enemy because of our sins and failings. We can be thankful that God has forgiven us in Christ. We can be thankful that we belong to Christ.

*Geoffrey D. Dunndeeper*

**Save the Date!** *Bega Valley Advocates for Timor Leste* are bringing a Timorese Choir to Bega for a series of Events and Concerts between April 28 and May 5. Draft itinerary includes: A welcome dinner, school visits and a concert at Millingandi on Sunday 30th April. Full itinerary will be available closer to the event.

**HELP SYRIA.** Aid to the Church in Need has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. Your help will support our long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake](http://www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake) or QR code.



**Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported communities.. For further enquireis: RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



One of our parish families (Nikki and Andrew D'Arcy and their children) have had a difficult time over the last 12 months. Their youngest child, Hugo was born in 2021 with a rare disease that creates an immune deficiency. Treatment to date for Hugo has been unsuccessful and the family have lived in isolation. They now need to go overseas for further treatment for Hugo. Could you please offer your prayers for the family. There is also a 'Gofundme' appeal titled 'Hugo's Thymus Journey' on the internet.

### Ash Wednesday Masses Wednesday 22nd February

*Tathra* 9am Mass  
*Bega* 2:15pm School Mass  
*Candelo* 7pm Liturgy  
*Bemboka* TBA

### Stations of the Cross

*Candelo* - Tues 7pm in lent,  
followed by a cuppa



### You're Invited

✦ *Tathra* - Breakfast every 2nd Sunday of the Month after Mass. 12 February  
✦ *Bega* - Morning Tea 4th Sunday of the Month after Mass Bega. 26th February  
**All Welcome. Please bring a friend.**

**Fr Adrian Contact:** Mobile: 0411 676 064  
Email: [Adrian.Chan@cg.org.au](mailto: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

### 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** Angus Collins (Eddie Collins Grandson), Janette Collins  
**ANNIVERSARIES** Denise Mary Mulligan, John Roberts Senior, John Verrell  
**PRAYERS** Anne Smith & her children Henry & Malory (Sue Gardiner's Daughter).  
Jenny Ryan and June O'Farrell - Ill health.  
Hugo D'Arcy and his family

**Feasts**  
21<sup>st</sup> - **St Peter Damian**, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, 1007-1072. Remembered as a scholarly reformer possessing a deeply ascetical spirituality.  
22<sup>nd</sup> - **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
22<sup>nd</sup> - **The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle**  
23<sup>rd</sup> - **St Polycarp**, Bishop & Martyr, 69-155. Remembered because of the account of his martyrdom for his fearless acknowledgment of Christ, and honoured as one of the apostolic fathers of the Church.

Please take home a **Project Compassion box** or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all .

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**

You can also donate on 1800 024 413 or [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



**Family and Children Mass:** St Patrick's Bega 4th Sunday of each month, 9:30am. Everyone Welcome. Please invite your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. *Fr Adrian.*

**Planned Building Maintenance:** The parish over the next few years will be undertaking maintenance of the various buildings under our charge for Bega, Tathra, Candelo and Bemboka. Please pray for these projects. Thank you.

*Dear friends,* Thank you for increasing your contributions to the 1st Collection in 2022. Last year your contributions increased from \$23 500 in 2021 to \$31 500. There are many ways to contribute - mass plate, TapNGo, credit card or direct debit. Please contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you. *Fr Adrian*

*For readers* please pause 10 seconds in between readings for respectful silence thank you.

### Ash Wednesday Prayer

Merciful God,  
look upon us as we enter these Forty Days,  
bearing the mark of ashes,  
and bless our journey through the desert of Lent,  
may our fasting be hunger for justice;  
our alms, a making of peace;  
our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.  
All that we do and pray is the name of Jesus,  
for in his cross you proclaim your love  
for ever and ever. Amen.