

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**Eden Christmas Giving Tree.** We are calling upon your generosity to help make a brighter Christmas for those in our community, finding daily living challenging, and unfortunately we do know there are many. The greatest need this year is for food and so this request is for either food items or a gift voucher from IGA - marked no alcohol or cigarettes. A toy or game will certainly find a wonderful home too. Thank you for your support and generosity. Eileen Cameron and her wonderful band of supporters will distribute to those in need.

### CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note the following hours before Christmas:

Mon 18 Dec: 9am-3pm; Tues 19 Dec: 12pm-3pm

**CLOSED OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS & WILL REOPEN ON:**

Wed 31 Jan: 9am-3pm; Thurs 1 Feb: 9am-3pm.

I would like to wish you all a holy and joyous Christmas. May 2024 bring you much peace and happiness. Thank you for your support in my role at the parish. Keep well and God bless you. Yours sincerely, Alicia O'Connor.

### RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

**Friday 22 December 5pm at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.**



### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Sausage Sizzle at 5:30pm and Carols at 6:30pm  
on Sunday 17 December at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.**

### Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent (Joy)

The Third Sunday in Advent is also known as the The Joyful Sunday and it is represented by the rose candle.

*Leader: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord.*

All: Amen

*(The first, second purple candles and the rose candles are lit).*

### 2024 RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE PARISH OFFICE:

- \* Josephite Calendars- \$10
- \* The Sign Advent Reflection- \$5
- \* God's Word Daily Reflections- \$25



**Birthday Cheers  
for Alicia (13 Dec) and  
Fr George (15 Dec)!**



**CONTACT DETAILS**  
**Parish Priest**  
Fr George Ogah  
George.Ogah@cg.org.au  
**Parish Secretary**  
Mrs Alicia O'Connor  
**Parish Council Chair**  
Mrs Bernadette Wood  
**Liturgy Coordinator**  
Ms Sue Heffernan  
**Finance Chair**  
Mr Neil Ffrench  
**Parish Safeguarding Volunteer**  
Mr Philip Roach  
Email to be confirmed  
**Lumen Christi Catholic College**  
Mr Shane Giles (02) 6495 8888  
**Marriage Preparations**  
Damien & Celi Kennedy  
**Parish Office**  
Hours - 9am to 3pm  
Wednesday and Thursday  
Phone - 0435 036 236  
Email - pambula@cg.org.au  
Web - www.cg.org.au/pambula  
Address - 79 Main Street /  
PO Box 249, Merimbula,  
NSW, 2548

### Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden  
St Joseph's, Merimbula  
St Peter's, Pambula  
St Joseph's, Wyndham

### Mass Times

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Month  
-9:30am, Merimbula  
Saturday -6pm, Eden  
Sunday -8am, Pambula  
-10am, Merimbula  
Tuesday -5pm, Merimbula  
Wednesday-10am, Pambula  
Thursday -10am, Eden  
Friday -10am, Merimbula

## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter's Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that others may experience the love of Christ.

**We acknowledge the Yuin people and pay our deepest respects to elders of past, present and emerging from all first nations around the world from whom we have learned so much.**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

### REFLECTION Fr Michael Tate *Witness to the Light*

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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### John 1:6-8, 19-28

***There stands among you, unknown to you,  
the one who is coming after me.***

**Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8. 19-28**

**Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10 (R.)** My soul rejoices in my God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon: Cf Isaiah 35:4**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Friday, after Mass, Merimbula  
Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden  
Wednesday, after Mass, Pambula

**Anointing of the Sick**

Will be offered at weekday masses during the last week of every month.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Welcoming Mass – 4th Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism during Mass on 1st Saturday/Sunday of the month. Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries.

**Weddings**

By appointment only – at least 6 months' notice in advance.

**Adoration**

Tuesday at 4:15pm followed by Mass at 5pm, Merimbula

1st Sunday at 3:00pm, Eden

**Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary**

Sunday 9:30am and Fridays at 4:30pm

At St Joseph's Merimbula

**Rosary**

Monday Cenacle 11am in Merimbula

Tuesday 4:30pm in Merimbula

Wednesday 9am in Pambula

Thursday 8:45am in Eden

**Reading Rosters for 23/24 December:**

Eden:	Pambula:	Merimbula: 10am
Intro & Prayers: Eileen McRae 1st Reader: Michael G 2nd Reader: Gaye	Commentator/2nd Reading/Prayers of the Faithful: Dave Crawford 1st Reader: Pat Went	Commentator/2nd Reader: Brian First Reader: Gai

**FEAST/SPECIAL DAYS**

**THIS WEEK:**

**Thurs 21 Dec:** Collect of St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor (Optional).

**Sat 23 Dec:** Collect of St John of Kanty, priest (Optional).

**WELCOME FR DONATUS**

WHO WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. PLEASE MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A CHRISTMAS GIFT WITH HIM TO THANK HIM FOR HIS PRESENCE, PLEASE DO SO.

**Dates to Remember:**

- ❖ Sun 17 Dec: Sausage Sizzle 5:30pm & Carols at 6:30pm in St Joseph's.
- ❖ Sun 11 Feb: Walk n Talk in Eden at 2pm.

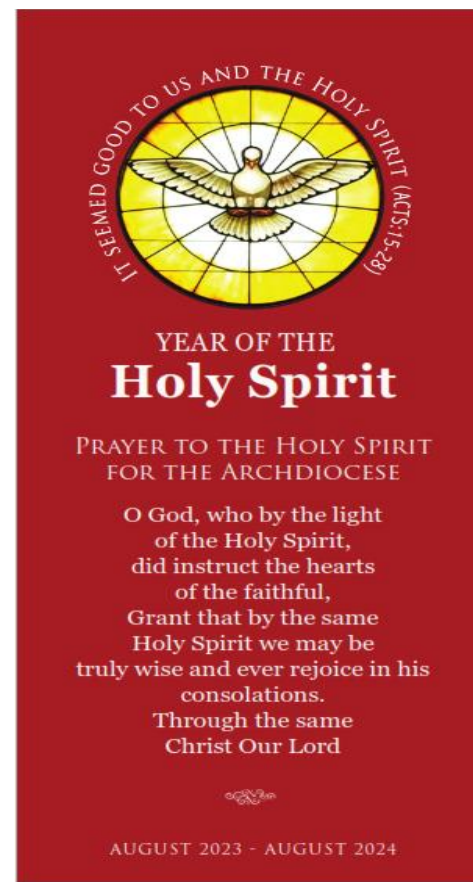
**Planned Giving Collections:**

First: \$668.55; Second: Envelopes: \$560.50; Loose: \$425.70.  
November Online Giving: Credit Card: \$830.00; Direct Debit: \$505.00  
THANK YOU... to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.

*Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers...* Frank Elton, John Liston, Conrad De Zwart, Jake Alcock, Anne Cooper, Jocelyn Petty, Jeff and Monica Paffen, Glen Alcock, Lynette Robert, Patricia May Bills, Cliff Hamilton, Suzanne Montgomery, Margot Neilson, Rob Francis, Chris Greenwood, Margaret Coates, Lyn Collie, Geoff Heffernan, Mary O'Donnell, Judy Broddrick, John Reynolds, Max Andrew, Ros Beveridge, Eric Mangion, Anselmo Guiffre, David Went.

*This Week's Mass Intentions:* nil.

*We pray for all the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:* Frank Elton (RIP); Maria Dimasi (RIP); John Reynolds (Eden, RIP); Giuseppina Gianfrotta (Anniversary). *May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of our Lord, rest in peace, AMEN*



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**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

- 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass**  
Sat 23 Dec Eden Vigil 6pm  
Sun 24 Dec Pambula 8am  
Merimbula 10am
- Christmas Eve Mass**  
Sun 24 Dec 5pm Children's Mass  
Merimbula  
7pm Eden  
9pm Pambula
- Christmas Day Mass**  
Mon 25 Dec 8am Pambula  
9am Merimbula

We welcome

**Kobe Emanuel Lawrenz**

who was Baptised on 2 December, 2023, into our Parish family. May God bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT:** St Peter's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people to have their say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

**COMMUNICATING CONCERNS:** You are encouraged to raise any concerns by emailing Fr George, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer or directly to Maria Hicks at the Institute Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) on ipss@cg.org.au