



# 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](mailto:Bega.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)  
St. Patrick's School, Bega. Mrs. Jo Scott-Pegum (Principal) 6492 5500  
Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula. Mr. Shane Giles 6495 8888

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Website: <http://cg.org.au/bega/>  
Facebook: St Patricks Bega

*We acknowledge the Djirringanj 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 & respect their continuing culture & the contribution they make to the life of the Bega Valley.*

## No Offense, but ...



In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah predicts that when the Messiah comes, he will make the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, and the lame walk and leap. In the Gospel Reading, when John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus whether Jesus is the one the Israelites have been waiting for, Jesus says they should tell John that Jesus has done all these things and more. Even the dead are raised! This is, of course, a spectacular list of wonders. Anyone who can make the blind see is amazing. Anyone who can raise the dead is working great miracles. And so a person who does what Jesus did clearly has the power of God. For that reason, he is to be admired, loved, and feared.



If God is unknowable by you, then you don't have to worry about facing him on a daily basis.

So why does Jesus finish his list of miraculous deeds by saying "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me?" Offense? Offense at what?!

Well, think about it this way. What is God anyway, philosophically? Pure act? Being itself? Utterly unknowable by us? Those phrases have a lot of dignity about them, don't they? Somehow, they seem worthy of the Deity.

Why would we think our puny minds could know anything about something so magnificent, so great, as God? Why wouldn't God be something totally other than any of his creatures? But notice that it's hard to have a personal relationship with being itself, and pure act doesn't seem like a person who can seek you first. At any rate, if God is unknowable by you, then you don't have to worry about facing him on a daily basis. You can't face what you can't know.

And for how many people is that subterranean thought deeply comforting?

But Christ wrecks it.

Christ is not unknowable, and he is not something abstract like being itself. He is a particular person, and he has a face. True, he is God incarnate, and his face is human. But, still, his face is the face of God. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father, Jesus tells Philip.

So we can know God, and we can see God's face in the face of Jesus. God is present to us as a person in the person of Christ. And God in the person of Christ is always with us! We can know him and face him every day.

Blessed is the one who takes no offense at this.

*Eleonore Stump*

**Entrance Antiphon** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Responsorial Psalm** Lord, come and save us.

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

### ROSTERS - 20th/21st December 2025 Please arrange a swap if you are not available

#### Bemboka Sat 6pm

*Commentator* G Berman  
*Readers* G Bevitt  
*Cleaners*

#### Candelo Sat 6pm

*Commentator* R Heffernan  
*Readers* M Whitby  
*Cleaners - Dec* Lorraine & Simon Thompson

#### Tathra Sun 7:45am

*Commentator* Trish Sly  
*Readers* Gerard Hergenhan  
*Cleaners* Marg T, Lee R, everyone  
*Audio-Visual* Kate D'Arcy  
*Eucharistic Ministers* Trish Sly, Carleen Maley

#### Bega Sun 9:30am

*Commentator* T Tomlinson  
*Readers* V Northcott  
*Gifts* Volunteer  
*Music* Matt Heffernan  
*Acolyte* David Grainger  
*Eucharistic Ministers* B Larkin, D Koenigkamp



**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.

**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** - 7:15am 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  
*Confirmation 2025*— 8th June 2025  
*Weddings*—by appoint, 6 months notice req.  
Please contact the Parish Office.

**Syro-Malabar Mass** 4th Wed of the Month 5pm Bega. Contact Lijoy 0469 341 965

**സീറോ-മലബാർ കുർബാന**  
മാസത്തിലെ 4 ബുധനാഴ്ച  
വൈകുന്നേരം 5 മണിക്കു ശേഷം.  
ബന്ധപ്പെടുക: ലിജോയ് 0469 341 965

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](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au))



We Welcomed into our Parish Family:

Cathy English

Baptised in the name of the Father, & the Son & the Holy Spirit



**Christmas Family Mass:** All children & youth are invited to participate in the family mass at Christmas. Please see Fr Adrian or the office if you wish to participate. All young children are invited to come dressed as shepherds & angels.

**God's Word 2026** orders now available for collection. **Catholic Voice** available

**Eucharistic Ministers Training:** Fr Adrain invites all Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes to attend a training session on 23rd Dec at 11am in the Presbytery. Please RSVP [Adrian.Chan@cg.org.au](mailto:Adrian.Chan@cg.org.au) or [Bega@cg.org.au](mailto:Bega@cg.org.au) Thanks.

**St Patrick's School News:** ✠ *Nativity Play* - All invited to the Nativity performance on Monday 15th December at 2:30pm in the school hall.  
✠ *Enrolling Now* - All grades including kinder 2026. For further details and to book an appointment contact the school office 6492 5500.

**Bulletin Email** - due to IT issues the weekly bulletin email is currently not working. The bulletin is available on the parish website from 2pm Thursdays.



**Vinnie's Christmas Appeal:** Please Help People in our Valley facing poverty this Christmas. Your donation this Christmas will assistance Family, not going hungry and keeping the light on. We thank you for your support as always. Merry Christmas.

**Single adults Retreat**, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fellowship. Places limited. Fee: \$300 per person. <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>

**You're Invited - after mass**

- ✠ *Tathra* - Breakfast 2nd Sunday of the Month
  - ✠ *Bega* - Morning Tea last Sunday of the Month
- All Welcome. Please bring a friend.**

**Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation**

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

**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  
- 4th Sunday- 9:30am Family Mass

**Weekdays**

- Tuesday 5.00pm Bega Chapel
- Wednesday 9.00am Tathra.  
8-9am Tathra 'Holy Hour'
- Thursday 9.15am Bega Chapel  
➤ *Hillgrove House 3rd Thursday 3pm*
- Friday 9.15am Bega Chapel  
4:30-5:30pm Bega 'Holy Hour of Mercy'
- Saturday 9.15am Bega Church

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Colin Murphy, Michael Caragher

**ANNIVERSARIES** Ken Lehman, Ann Farrell,

**PRAYERS** Alex Tarlinton, Rachel Healey

**Feasts** **14<sup>th</sup> - St John of the Cross**, Priest & Doctor of the Church 1542-1591. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.



**Pause + Pray - Extend Compassion**

**Reflect:** We are often our own worst critics, failing to extend compassion to ourselves when we would easily do so for a loved one. Use this prayer to find your centre within God's compassionate embrace.

**Pray:** God of mercy, I feel so self-critical; I never seem to do enough, or be enough, to satisfy myself.

Sometimes it is easier to have compassion on everyone else.

Today I ask for the grace to accept myself as simply a little child in need of love.

Amen.

**Act** Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Tenderly speak to yourself the words you need to hear, the way you would speak to a friend.

- by Shannon K. Evans

**Christmas Mass Times 2025**

- ★ *Monday 22nd*  
Bega 5pm Syro Malabar  
ബേഗാ വൈകീട്ട് അഞ്ചിന് സീറോ മലബാർ ആചാരം
- ★ *Christmas Eve*  
Bega 5:30pm Carols  
6:00pm Family Vigil
- Bemboka 9pm
- ★ *Christmas Day*  
Tathra 7:45am
- Candelo 10:00am



**Spirituality of Synodality**

*Fruits of Synodality.*

How do we know when we are living synodality? We see the fruits. Unity, harmony, patience, joy, and service are signs that the Holy Spirit is at work among us.

**Reflection:** What fruits of the Spirit do I see in my parish community?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, grow in us the fruits that bring life to the Church.

**Wise Words:**

Christmas can be difficult time of year because it's all about this idea of the perfect family. And you look at your own and think, 'hmm, there's a bit of a difference here'. - Kathleen Cox