

Entrance Antiphon Drop down dew 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 Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

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

ROSTERS - 27th/28th December 2025
Please arrange a swap if you are not available
Christmas - Please refer to your roster.

Bemboka Sat 6pm
Commentator S Berman
Readers E Bevitt
Cleaners

Candelo Sun 9:30am
Commentator R Heffernan
Readers A Haehy
Cleaners - Dec Lorraine & Simon Thompson

Tathra Sun 7:45am
Commentator Clare Walker
Readers Neil Walker
Cleaners Marj
Audio-Visual Carleen Maley
Eucharistic Ministers Carleen Maley, Pat Platts

Bega Sun 9:30am
Commentator M Dessmann
Readers A Woods
Gifts Volunteer
Music Matt Heffernan
Acolyte Sean McCambridge
Eucharistic Ministers Kathy Rix

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 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 encouraged 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 - 7:15am 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 മണിക്ക് ബേഗ.
ബന്ധപ്പെടുക: ലിജോയ് 0469 341 965

4th Advent - Year A
21st December 2025



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 Catholic College, 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 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.

An Inner Assurance



A dream changed Joseph's life and ours. A mere dream, like what you and I have at night. How trustworthy could this be? And yet the safety of Mary and the child Jesus depended on it. In his dream, an angel told him that Mary's pregnancy was from the Holy Spirit of God. Mary had accepted readily but without really understanding. This angel of the Lord told him in the dream that he should not be afraid of the pregnancy, even though he was not yet married to this woman. There can be a time when grace is so quietly strong that the person praying has an inner assurance that the experience did not come from imagination but from God.

Not be afraid? Already everyone could see that Joseph's fiancé was "in a family way." Modern culture might applaud this fact. In Biblical culture marriage was a sacred act, a participation in God's own fidelity. It seemed that Mary had broken with that fidelity, at least as far as the townspeople could see. The Blessed Mother a public sinner! No wonder Joseph was making arrangements for a "quiet divorce."



So why in the world would he trust a dream? A friend of mine said he dreamed one night about a kangaroo sitting on his roof in a rocking chair, smoking a pipe! Should my friend keep a rocking chair on the roof from now on, just in case? No. We take dreams for what they probably are, a mechanism of our psyche that somehow helps us but does not give us literal truth. We do not trust dreams for life-changing messages.

Why did Joseph? I think the answer has to do with something St. Ignatius of Loyola calls "discernment." In general, discernment is an examination of one's internal reactions to God ("movements") in prayer. There are many different kinds of interior movements to discern, but Ignatius notes a more rare one first. There can be a time when grace is so quietly strong that the person praying has an inner assurance that the experience did not come from imagination but from God. In this case, no doubts are possible.

You and I have to be careful not to get carried away by this notion. Probably many of us could convince ourselves that God or an angel spoke to us this morning. We need to discern which experiences are from God and which are not. Are they quiet? Do they lead toward God or away? What is the long-term result? A spiritual director could help us sort through such questions. Joseph's dream must have been a movement of this kind. It contained a quiet certainty of the presence of God. No doubts followed it, in a situation when doubts would surely seem called for. It was like the face of a mother to an infant. Like the voice of a close friend.

Continued inside



Christmas Family Mass: All children & youth are invited to participate in the family mass at Christmas. They are invited to come dressed as shepherds & angels. Help with flowers and flower arranging is also needed.

Helpers needed Bega: Flower arrangement. We are recruiting people for flower arrangement for our church in Bega. If you can assist please contact Fr Adrian.

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 or Bega@cg.org.au Thanks.

Bega Filipino Choir practice after mass on 4th January.

St Patrick's School News: Enrolling Now all grades including kinder 2026. For further details and to book an appointment contact the school office 6492 5500.

Sacramental Programme 2026 - this year we are offering First Reconciliation and First Communion to students in year 3 and above. Parents information night 13th May. Enrolments now open: <https://forms.gle/JKvq2eUNgHZMjYYP7>



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.

Pambula - Parish Officer People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Officer for the Catholic Parish of Pambula. This is a permanent part time position of 12 hours per week and will be based in the Parish Office, Merimbula. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. For information please email pambula@cg.org.au Applications close 9 Jan 2026.

The full Statement from the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn regarding the recent Bondi Beach tragedy is available on the parish website.

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

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

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Marykuty Joseph (Fr Kose Pambula mum), Colin Murphy

ANNIVERSARIES Mick Tygh

PRAYERS Alex Tarlinton, Rachel Healey,

Feasts Days this

- 23rd - **St John of Kanty**, Priest 1390-1473. Taught philosophy, theology, & Scripture at the university in Cracow. Urged his students to moderation in controversy
- 25th - **The Nativity of the Lord**
- 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. Son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation.

Front page Cont. Another way to put it is that Joseph already had much trust in God's love. This trust was in no way broken into, shattered or pulled to pieces by the dream. Instead the message fit right into the design of Joseph's life with God. And so he followed it. What is your internal sense of the Christmas story? Is the birth of God an impossible tale reserved for children? Or do you find the roots of trust within yourself as Joseph did? Pray for the open faith Joseph and Mary had.

John Foley, SJ



Pause + Pray - In God's Hands

Reflect: Remember that old refrain, "He's got the whole world in his hands"? He's also got each one of us in his hands, and he doesn't let go .

Pray: Dear God, you promise to hold me by my right hand (Psalm 73:23), but somehow, I keep falling. Why do you let go of me? Then I imagine your tender smile as you answer, "I haven't let go; I have two hands. I hold you with one while the other tenderly lifts you back up."

Act Notice your hands today. Is your skin calloused or soft, your fingers straight or swollen, your nails short or dirty? Then imagine God's hand firmly holding on to your right one as you go through the day.

- by Colleen Arnold, MD

Spirituality of Synodality

Synodality: A Way of Life.

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: How can I make synodality part of my daily way of life?

Prayer: Lord, make me a faithful disciple who walks with You and with others.

Christmas Mass Times 2025

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



Wise Words:

To live by faith means to put our lives in the hands of God. Especially in our most difficult moments. - *Pope Francis*