



**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

**ROSARY**

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

**Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation**

**Bega** Saturday, 9.40 - 10.10am  
**Bemboka** before vigil Mass  
**Candelo** before vigil Mass  
**Tathra** before Sunday Mass

**Sacramental Programme 2026**

*Baptisms* - 1 month notice required  
*Reconciliation* - May  
*Communion* - November  
*Weddings* - by appointment, 6 months notice required.  
*RCIA* - if anyone would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith or knows of someone who would like to become a Catholic, please contact Fr. Adrian.  
*Please contact the Parish Office.*

**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

**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. ബസാപ്പടുക: ലിജോയ് 0469 341 965

**Sunday Readings Reflection Group**  
Is taking a break during January Resume  
Tuesdays in Feb. at 7pm Star of the Sea Tathra.

**Meditation & Contemplative Prayer**  
Meeting is held on Monday at 7.30pm in the annex of Star of the Sea Church at Tathra.

**MENS' GROUP: 2nd & 4th Thursdays**  
St Patrick's Church  
Contact David Grainger: 0409 430 997

**St. Pat's Choir practices**  
Thursdays 5.15—6pm  
Contacts Mary 0428 471 012 or Matt 0429 338 348.

**Words of Wisdom:**  
The true Christian can nurture a trustful optimism, because he is certain of not walking alone. In sending us Jesus, the eternal Son made man, God has drawn near to each of us. In Christ he has become our traveling companion.  
*- Pope John Paul II*



Year A 27th December 2025 — 25th January 2026

# St. Patrick's Parish

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Adrian Chan  
**Parish Administration:** Mrs. Tanya Tomlinson,  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 9-2 Bulletin Deadline: Thurs 10:30am  
**Safeguarding:** Mrs. Emma Grant, [Bega.Safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:Bega.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)  
**St. Patrick's Primary School, Bega:** Mrs. Jo Scott-Pegum 6492 5500 [Office.Bega@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Office.Bega@cg.catholic.edu.au)  
**Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula:** Mr. Shane Giles 6495 8888 [lccc@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lccc@cg.catholic.edu.au)

Ph. 64921058,  
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Email: [Bega@cg.org.au](mailto: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.*

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 27th December 2025



The Feast of the Holy Family is an important reminder of what Christmas is really about. We give thanks for the gift of our families. It's where we first encountered love and affection, where we discovered what it means to be supported and accepted for who we are regardless of successes or failures. It's where we first learned about our faith and experienced God's love for us through our parents, brothers and sisters. While we all have regrets, today we pray for healing and a renewal of hope in family life. As we prepare to usher in the New Year we build on the good and move on from the painful and damaging experiences. This is only possible if we make the time & the space to welcome God into the heart of our families.

**Responsorial Psalm.**  
Happy are they who fear the Lord and walk in his ways

**Gospel Acclamation.**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

### ROSTERS 4th January - 1st February 2026

Please arrange a swap if you are not available

**Bemboka Sat 6pm**

Date	Commentator	Readers	Gifts	Cleaners
4th Jan	E Bevitt	G Green		
11th Jan	G Berman	S Berman	Volunteer	Green
18th Jan	Tasha Allen	G Berman		
25th Jan	H Woollett	G Bevitt	Volunteer	Woollett
1st Feb	J Macinante	R Allen		

**Candelo**

Date	Commentator	Readers	Gifts	Cleaners
4th Jan	John Coman	Kevin Dodds	Volunteer	Kathy Wels & Family
11th Jan	Robert Coman	Merryl Whitby		
18th Jan	Roger Heffernan	L Thompson	Volunteer	
25th Jan	Ann Hahesy	John Coman		
1st Feb	L Thompson	Roger Heffernan	Volunteer	S&D Heffernan

**Tathra Sun 7:45am**

Date	Commentator	Readers	Gifts	Cleaners	Overhead	Eucharistic Ministers
4th Jan	Pat Platts	Gerry Collins	Volunteer	Marj Bower	Paul Gardiner	Pat Platts, Trish Sly
11th Jan	Betty O'Brien	Paul Gardiner	Volunteer	Trish Sly & Marg Roberts	Pat Platts	Trish Sly, Denise Miller
18th Jan	Trish Sly	G Hergenhan	Volunteer	Margaret T & Lee R	Carleen Maley	Denise Miller, Carleen Maley
25th Jan	Raewyn Galton	Carleen Maley	Volunteer	Pat Platts	Trish Sly	Carleen Maley, Pat Platts
1st Feb	David Grainger	Raewyn Galton	Volunteer	Mary Plevy	Paul Gardiner	Mark Oakley, Trish Sly (Altar)

**Bega Sun 9:30am**

Date	Commentator	Readers	Gifts	Acolyte	Eucharistic Ministers	Nursing Home
4th Jan	T Tomlinson	J Scott-Pegum	Volunteer	Leo Perez	C Tarlinton, A Tarlinton	D Koenigkamp, P Gardiner
11th Jan	Mel Ferris	M O'Neill	Volunteer	Frank Farrell	B Burton	
18th Jan	M Dessmann	M Scott	Volunteer	David Grainger	B Larkin, D Koenigkamp	
25th Jan	T Tomlinson	M Dessmann	Volunteer	Sean McCambridge	K Rix	
1st Feb	Ayar Frantz	A Twyford	Volunteer	Leo Perez	C Tarlinton, B Burton	A Tarlinton, F Farrell



**I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners, volunteers and sponsors of Bega Parish.**

**I wish you all a Blessed 2026 with the Lord's choicest blessing upon your family, relations near and far. May the Lord keep all of you in good health this coming year. Safe travels to all who are on the road. Fr. Adrian.**

## The Epiphany of the Lord 3rd January 2026

Reflecting on the journey made by the magi as they arrive at Bethlehem guided by a star, Pope Benedict explains:

*'Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal. But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives. They were sure that God existed and that he was a just and gentle God. And perhaps they also knew of the great prophecies of Israel foretelling a King who would be intimately united with God. The new King, to whom they now paid homage, was quite unlike what they were expecting. In this way they had to learn that God is not as we usually imagine him to be. This was where their inner journey began. It started at the very moment when they knelt down before this child and recognized him as the promised King. They had to change their ideas about power, about God and about man, and in so doing so they also had to change themselves. Now they were able to see that God's power is not like that of the powerful of this world. God's ways are not as we imagine them or as we might wish them to be.'*



*Now they have to learn to give themselves - no lesser gift would be sufficient for this King. Now they have to learn that their lives must be conformed, to God's own way of being.*

*They must become men of truth, of justice, of goodness, of forgiveness, of mercy.'*

I think we're all in search of many things in our lives and at various stages we can all be uncertain, if not afraid, about the future. Part of being human is the realization that we all need help and guidance but the important question arises, where do we look for help and guidance? It's never easy putting our trust in a God we cannot see. Just like the Magi we all need a light in our lives to guide and protect us. Throughout our journeys we all search for love, acceptance and understanding. Today we're told that a light shines out for the nations as God is seen in the face of a child, revealing himself to all peoples. Only by following the light of his word and sacraments can we hope to find our journey's end as we seek the face of God.

**Responsorial Psalm.**  
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Gospel Acclamation.**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

# The Baptism of the Lord

We rarely think of Jesus as a beginner, just as we rarely think of Jesus needing help. But in today's feast we celebrate those two things: Jesus makes a big beginning to his ministry, and he receives help in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All the Gospels agree that John the Baptist was very important in the life of Jesus. It is the towering, fearless figure of John that stands between the hidden life of Jesus and his public ministry. Before Jesus goes to John he is known by the local people simply as the son of a carpenter, who stays in the small town of Nazareth. After his time with John, Jesus becomes widely known as the wandering preacher with a unique prophetic mission. Clearly, something happened to Jesus while he was with John. He underwent a change that gave his life a new direction.

While he is with John, Jesus makes his big beginning. As Peter says in the second reading, "Jesus of Nazareth began in Galilee after John had been preaching baptism." John was a very important turning-point in the life of Jesus - so important that Jesus says of him later: "of all the children born of women, there is no one greater than John". And in the fourth Gospel we are told that the first disciples of Jesus are ex-disciples of John.

In fact John was so important that some people in the first century thought that *he* was the Messiah - as Luke tells us in today's Gospel. One of the reasons they thought that was because like many people Jesus went to John to be baptised. Perhaps that is why Luke has the Baptist in prison before he tells the story of Jesus' baptism: to assure his readers of the supremacy of Jesus!

**Growing into our own baptism.** The Spirit that empowered Jesus to make his new beginning is the same Spirit that empowered us in our baptism. Few of us can remember that moment; most of us were carried to the font, infants in the

arms of our parents or godparents. Our name was given to us, our commitment was spoken for us. Our future was promised to God. We spend our lives catching up with our beginning, struggling to make good the large promises made on our behalf. What started at our christening needs to be validated by our personal decisions. We have not left our baptism behind us; it faces us each day as God's expectation of us.

Our baptism is not the only time we are empowered by the Spirit. The great medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas spoke of the "new sending in the Spirit", times of grace when God enlivens people in special ways for different tasks. The Spirit does not retire at our baptism; he is not shy about helping adults. We should all pray for the sending of the Spirit, particularly when we face change and important decisions. The Spirit of God is the power behind new beginnings. If we are willing to begin, he is there to grace our new venture in faith.

As we celebrate Jesus' great public beginning, we look at our own beginnings. And if some of them look a bit shabby now or half-hearted, we take consolation from the Gospel challenge to begin *again*. There probably won't be any doves or voices from heaven, but as Gospel people we make our beginnings like Jesus. We are not alone. We make them in the power of the Spirit and in the love of the Father. So, let us take courage to face our own road.

## 10th January 2026



**Responsorial Psalm.**  
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Gospel Acclamation.**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard  
This is my beloved Son, hear him  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen & testified that this is the Son of God.



## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

## 17th January 2026



### Being a witness.

John the Baptist is a witness to the light; he is not the light. He is the first of many witnesses to Jesus - a host of people who give testimony to the truth about Jesus. Later in the Gospel Jesus tells his own disciples that when they receive the Spirit of truth, "you too will be my witnesses" (15:27).

And that charge is given to each of us. We have all been baptised in the Spirit; we have all been called to witness to Jesus. We are asked to point away from ourselves to Jesus; we are challenged to lead others to the person of Jesus. The best way to do that is through our own genuine attachment to the Lord. Many people need help to come to Jesus. None of us comes to him alone. If only we had the courage to speak about Jesus to each other. Most people are moved when others share with them what *really matters* in their lives. Perhaps we have lost the courage to say any more what matters to us; perhaps we doubt if anyone will care.

We should take courage to share what we believe. With Cardinal Newman, we know that we believe because we love. In the power of that love, let us share our belief with each other.

*I listen; he is the one who speaks, I am enlightened; he is the light, I am the ear; he is the Word. St. Augustine.*

**Responsorial Psalm.**  
Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

**Gospel Acclamation.**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Word of God became flesh & dwelt among us.  
He enabled those who accepted him to become children of God  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst

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)

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 24th January 2026

### The first disciples.



When Matthew writes of the call of the first disciples, there is no suggestion of any hesitation on the part of the four fishermen. Matthew does not tell us why they follow Jesus. His story is simple: Jesus calls them and they follow him. There is no hint about where they are going; there is no detailing of what discipleship will involve. Nothing is promised; nothing is signed. Matthew is clearly not interested in these questions; he is more concerned to show that the disciples are called by Jesus and how their discipleship requires the leaving of everything that occupied them until that moment.

Obviously things did not happen as abruptly as that. The disciples did not leave the security of their homes and jobs on the spur of the moment to follow a stranger they had never seen before. In their accounts Luke and John allow time for the disciples to find out about Jesus before they are called. The absence of any of this detail in Matthew points to the fact that he wants to focus on something more important: the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. With John the Baptist now in prison, the great voice of the wilderness is silenced. It is time for Jesus to begin. Matthew shows that Jesus is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. Jesus is the great light that has dawned; he is the one who begins his mission in Galilee of the Gentiles, a mission to all peoples.

Matthew keeps the focus on Jesus and shows the authority of his word and the power of his healing. Discipleship is centred on Jesus. Because of *who* he is, others will change. Jesus alone is the source of discipleship. Without the person of Jesus, discipleship is meaningless.

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
The Lord is my light  
and my salvation

**Gospel Acclamation.**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus Preaches the Good News of the kingdom  
And healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
Look toward the Lord and be radiant:  
Let your faces not be abashed.



### Parish Notices

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** Very big thank you to all who contributed.

**Thank You** for your generosity at the Christmas Masses.  
*Fr Adrian.*

**Archbishops Christmas Appeal: Support is Needed!** Money is used to assist people in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Pakistan, India, Timor Leste, and local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan. Donations are still being accepted in a marked envelope placed in the 2nd collection.

**Lenten Programme.** This year Ash Wednesday falls on 18th February. If you would like to purchase 'Compassio'-daily Lenten reflections produced by the Diocese of Wollongong please complete the order form at entrance or via link below by 20th January. Cost is \$10. <https://forms.gle/FCLdQzKnYFVTLfWF8>

**Parish Office Hours January.** The Office will be closed for January. Normal Hours will resume Tuesday 27th January. The phone and email will be regularly checked. Thank you for support over the last 12 months. Tanya.

**St Patrick's Primary News. VOLUNTEERS:** Would you like to volunteer at St Patrick's School to listen to children read or help in the school canteen? You need a working with children check and to complete a short induction. **ENROLLING NOW:** 2026 places are available in year levels across the school. At St Patrick's primary school, all are welcome.

**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>

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Colin Murphy  
**ANNIVERSARIES** Mick Tygh, Michael Doig, Pam Collins, John Verrell, Rena Sheehan



*We Welcome into our Parish Family:*

*Arlia Larkin  
Frankie & Knox Ainsworth  
Jaxon & Levi O'Brien  
Brooklyn Ellicott*

### Feast Days

- December**
- 28<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- 29<sup>th</sup> - St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr (1118-1170)
- 31<sup>st</sup> - St Sylvester I, Pope 314-335
- January**
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Mary, Mother of God
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - St Basil the Great (330-379) & St Gregory Naianzen (329-389), friends, Bishops, Doctors.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - The Most Holy Name of Jesus.
- 6<sup>th</sup> - The Epiphany of the Lord
- 7<sup>th</sup> - St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest. (1175-1275)
- 10<sup>th</sup> - The Baptism of the Lord
- 13<sup>th</sup> - St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, 315-368
- 17<sup>th</sup> - St Anthony, Abbot. (251-356) Father of Monasticism.
- 20<sup>th</sup> - St Fabian, Pope & Martyr, died 250
- 21<sup>st</sup> - St Agnes. Early Roman Martyr
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - St Vincent, Deacon.
- 24<sup>th</sup> - St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor. (1567-1622)
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Conversion of St Paul. The turning point of Paul's life.
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Australia Day. A day of prayers for Australia.
- 27<sup>th</sup> - St Timothy & St Titus, Bishops. Disciples & associates of St Paul.
- 27<sup>th</sup> - St Angela Merici, Virgin, 1474-1540, meeting the needs of women
- 28<sup>th</sup> - St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor. (1225-1274)
- 31<sup>st</sup> - St John Bosco, Priest (1815-1888). Worked in youth education.

