

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina



Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and future, the Bundjalung people.

**St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

welcome

**Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.**

1st Sunday of Advent (C)

1st December, 2024,



Weekend Mass Times Ballina

St Francis Xavier Church
Saturday Vigil— 5.30 pm
Sunday — 9.00 am
Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head
Holy Family Church
Sunday — 7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASS
At St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon MASS

ADORATION FRIDAY
11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Days

St Francis Xavier, Parish Patron
Tuesday

St Ambrose
Saturday

We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

URGENT: PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST
LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED FOR 5.30 PM VIGIL MASS &
9.00 AM SUNDAY MASS following Christmas, please contact the Parish Office.

ADVENT WREATH Lighting 1st Candle

PRIEST: Lord Jesus you bring the promise of salvation.

PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus you will come again in glory and power

PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus you are our guide and our Light

PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US



'CONGRATULATIONS'

DEBORAH LAWRENCE & JING YANG TAY (JAY)
Received into the fullness of Communion with the Catholic faith this Sunday.

God continually calls new members to His family, the Church. Our parish community is blessed today with the presence of Debra and Jay who are now full members of the Catholic Church.

Love and prayers from all the parish.

Everyone is invited to stay and meet the new members of our faith community as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day with a cuppa in the grounds of the Church.



'CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY BLESSINGS'

Tash Pavez & Sam Toigo
on their Marriage at Holy Family Church, this weekend.
Love and prayers to you both from all the Parish.



'WELCOME'

VERONICA SCICLUNA

Veronica has joined our Parish Administration Team.
Veronica will replace Kathy Finch as she retires gracefully from the position of Parish Receptionist.



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our parish community.



Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay
Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke
Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley
Pastoral Associate: John Kearney **Email:** john@sfxballina.org.au
Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan **Email:** ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au
Phone: 6681 1048; **Fax:** 6686 8774; **Email:** admin@sfxballina.org.au
Mon to Fri 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - 53-57 Cherry Street - Postal Address: PO Box 46 Ballina 2478

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

www.sfxballina.org.au

PARISH LIBRARY:

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

SCHOOLS:

St Francis Xavier Primary: 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina
Holy Family Primary: 6687 5311 - 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head
Xavier Catholic College: 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head
St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

AGED CARE:

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

2nd Sunday Advent, Year C: 8th December, 2024
Readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1:3-6,8-11; Luke 3:1-6

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Trish Bazar John Jarzynski</i>	<i>Marie Sullivan</i>	<i>Nicole Sullivan Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Maxine Cole</i>
EMOHC	<i>Kristie Coster Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Maddie Pride</i>	<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Jo Hurley Joan Hollingsworth</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Sandra Jones, Rodney Haydon, Betty Harris,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Cheryl Dowdell,

AND ALSO FOR: Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerlake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kelly Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Beryl Reed, Daphne Sweeney (*mother of Sr Kathryn*), Vince Newman, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre (*Ireland*), Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Syd*), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Kneightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Maree Doolan, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

2nd Dec 2024 final	Monday 10.30 am	The Cenacle Anawim Room
3rd Dec	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
to 3rd Dec	Tuesday 7.00 pm MT room	Exploring the Mass with Deacon Anthony
4th Dec & 18th Dec	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
to 5th Dec	Thursday 5.30 to 7.30 pm	ALPHA Parish Admin Centre
7th Dec HFC ~ LH	Saturday 8.00 am	Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima
9th Dec	Monday 12.00 noon Mass Parish Vol Mass	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9th Dec	Monday 1.30 pm Final for 2024	TAIZE SFX Church
14th Dec	Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church	Parish Advent Reflection Morning
22nd Dec	Friday 12.00 Noon Mass	Parish Anoint Mass

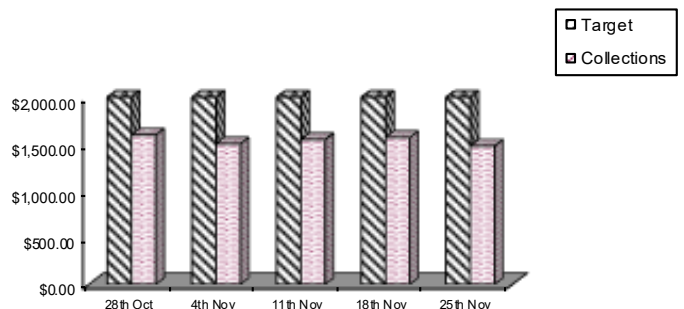
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY By making an EFTPOS donation –
***1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name**
*** 2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218 Please use your Planned Giving number as reference.**

DIF PAYS 4.15% PER ANNUM
BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 -

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 1,193.55
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 826.50
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,478.40
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

At the year's end, God comes – Christ is coming – as a baby at Christmas, coming into the dailiness of our lives, and at the end of time. It may seem odd at the beginning of Advent to hear Jesus speak of the second coming, but when Jesus says we're to watch and stay awake, he doesn't say it to play on our fears. Instead, he calls us to be alert to the signs of God's presence in our lives, encouraging us to have faith in God who is present in the person with whom we are talking, and in the smallest act, though we may only come to understand this sometime later.

As we grow in our faith, his coming 'with power and glory' will seem less a fearful prospect than the moment of our liberation.

One way we can prepare for it, says Jesus, is not to let the cares of life overwhelm us. But what might we say to the woman with a life-threatening illness who said recently: 'My mental health is an ongoing battle because I live in the unknown. I'm scared every time I get sick. I live in fear.'

Her words speak to us whenever we find ourselves adrift in the unknown, where nothing makes sense anymore and everything we've done to secure our future is called into question. Often our fears are disabling, and we wonder where we might find help to face them. This is what Jesus is offering us in the gospel, the gift of himself; and receiving it, in turn

we're asked to give it away. It's what the vivid, apocalyptic language of the gospel seeks to do: to help us be more aware of God's presence in our lives.

As we gradually grow into this awareness through prayer and our being with one another, when God's kingdom is revealed in its glory at the end of time, we will find ourselves able to stand with confidence before the Son of Man and we will be with God forever. This is the liberation of which Jesus speaks.

In the first reading, while the false prophets speak only of doom and gloom in the face of exile and what seems like impending disaster, Jeremiah re-assures the people that God will remain true to his promises and send them a ruler of honesty and integrity. Enabled to face what is happening, alert to God's presence, the prophet discovers there, not simply an end, but a new beginning.

In the second reading, Paul describes the life we're called to live in preparation for Christ's coming again. Whatever our differences, loving one another in a community of hope reveals the life of Christ to us and to 'the whole human race.' Whenever this happens, God's kingdom is made real on earth, as in heaven. It's the coming of the kingdom both now and in the future: it's the promise of Advent.

Damien Coleridge © Majellan Media 2024

COLUMBAN 2025 CALENDARS
are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 each
MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS
are available from the Parish Office \$10.00 for a
packet of ten.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY
Ballina Conference 'JESSE TREE'**

The Society will be distributing **FOOD VOUCHERS** to people in need this Christmas. These vouchers allow recipients to purchase food of their choice, excluding non-food items like alcohol or tobacco.

How to Help:

1. Take an envelope from the **Jesse Tree** in the Church of St Francis Xavier.
2. Place the envelope in the collection plate or return the envelope with your donation to:

o **Vinnies Shop**, 7 Martin Street, during business hours:

✦ Weekdays: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Deadline for donations: Monday, 16th December 2024 (for Christmas distribution)

Thank you for your generosity in sharing God's gifts and helping to make a family's Christmas a little brighter. Every dollar goes directly to those most in need in our local community.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA 1st Saturday Devotions.
Rosary will be recited at Holy Family Church, Lennox Head.
Saturday 7th December at 8.00 am.
Everyone welcome to attend!

ST VINCENT de PAUL will hold their annual summer appeal next weekend. Envelopes will be available in the pews of the churches.
Every dollar counts.



Please pray for the **ALPHA** participants, their leaders and supporting staff. The course finishes next week, and we look forward to welcoming a new group in 2025. In the meantime, please register your interest in Alpha with our Parish Office.

2024 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER

**5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Readers**

Bryan Marriott & John Jarzynski

EMOHC

Phil Chapman ~ Pauline Fingleton ~ Mick Vella

**7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Readers**

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EMOHC

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**9.00 am Mass Christmas Day
Readers**

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EMOHC

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**11.00 am Mass Christmas Day
Readers**

EMOHC

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First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16;

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness

that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of your name to my kin.

Communion Antiphon: What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CONNECT
 ALL ARE WELCOME ALL BELONG
 December 2024 Issue No. 3

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT NEWSLETTER
The third edition of the parish ‘CONNECT’ is now available in our Churches and on line. Don’t miss out on your **FREE** copy of the final edition for 2024. It will be back in 2025.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
 Our parish will have **Mass at 12.00 noon**
Monday 9th December.
 At this Mass we will acknowledge and give thanks for our wonderful Parish Volunteers for 2024.
Everyone is welcome to enjoy a cuppa following this Mass.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office: Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please contact the Safeguarding Office 6621 9444 or email safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au. Procedures are in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or adults at risk.

Invest with peace of mind
www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516 **dif** DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

The Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) is not subject to the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Deposits with the DIF are guaranteed by CDPF Limited, a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for this purpose. We welcome your investment with the DIF rather than with a profit oriented commercial organisation as a conscious commitment by you to support the Charitable, Religious and Educational works of the Catholic Church. Neither the DIF nor the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore are prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority; contributions to the DIF do not obtain the benefit of the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959; the DIF is designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the DIF.