

# 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.

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**8th September, 2024**

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY**

**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**

**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**

**The Most Holy Name of Mary**  
*Thursday*

**St John Chrysostom**  
*Friday*

**The Exaltation of the Cross**  
*Saturday*

**We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.**

**PARISH NOTICES**



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Lola Ann Jasmine Drue** daughter of Kerrie and Saul.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION**

Nominations for the council closed on Friday 30th August. Profiles of candidates are available as an insert in this week's parish bulletin.

We will pray in our Masses this week for guidance as we make our decisions about those we would like to be on the council.

The **election** will take place at **all Masses next weekend 14th/15th September**. If you are unable to attend, you can still cast your vote by 2.00 pm Wednesday 18th September at the Parish Administration Office.

**Clarification Regarding my Health,**

I have become aware of some persistent and damaging rumors concerning my health. There has been speculation that I have been diagnosed with Tuberculosis and other serious illnesses. I want to take this opportunity to clarify that these rumors are completely unfounded and untrue.

If you have any concerns or questions about my health. I encourage you to speak with me directly rather than relying on hearsay. It is disheartening to see misinformation spread by some parishioners, and I ask for your help in putting these falsehood to rest.

Thank you for your understanding, continued support, and especially your prayers. Let us work together to stop the spread of these rumors so that we may continue to focus on our shared mission of spreading the Good News rather than spreading rumors.

Blessings,  
Father Anselm

**8TH SEPTEMBER: SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY**



The Diocese of Lismore is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>



**"We all have the duty to do good"**  
- Pope Francis

**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](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)  
**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Kailani Tiernan **Email:** [ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au)  
**Phone:** 6681 1048; **Fax:** 6686 8774; **Email:** [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: 14th/15th September, 2024**  
**Readings: Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm 114; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35**

	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b> John Jarzynski Maxine Cole
<b>Readers</b>	Dan Gubby Trish bazar	Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps	Richard Goss Nicole Sullivan	
<b>EMOHC</b>	Tamara Gubby	Sue Hetherington	Deacon Anthony Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Cheryl Bowen
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			Jo Hurley Joan Hollingsworth	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
 Erika Conlon (*sister of Hilda Carter*) Lorna Ross, Blake Brydon (*Sunshine Coast*), Harry Brugiglio, Tom Houlihan (*England*), Sr Maria (*Marin*) PBVM, Leonie Jarzynski (*Sydney*),

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Ray Mariu, Peter Albertini, Bernard Evans, Elsie McMartin, Ab & Clare Mitchell

**AND ALSO FOR:** 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 Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Sr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.

**AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL:** 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 Ball, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevé (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Syd*), Geoff Johannes, Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Kneightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Syd*), David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Maree Doolan, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care,*

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024**

<b>10th September</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>10th September Holy Family Church</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00am</b>	<b>Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus</b>
<b>11th Sept &amp; 25th Sept</b>	<b>Wednesday 8.00 am</b>	<b>menALIVE Lennox Head</b>
<b>to 18th September</b>	<b>Wednesdays @ 8.45 to 10.15 am</b>	<b>Quick Journey through the Bible</b>
<b>23rd September</b>	<b>Monday 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting</b>
<b>12th October</b>	<b>Saturday 11.00 am</b>	<b>Public Rosary Lennox Head</b>

**PRAYER FOR 9/11 REMEMBRANCE**

Gracious God,  
 We pray to remember those who lost their lives on 11th September, 2001. May their families and loved ones find comfort and peace.  
 We pray for the safety and well-being of all those around the world affected by hate and terrorism.  
 Bring an end to all violence.  
 Amen.



<https://prayers.org/prayers-for-9-11/>

**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**

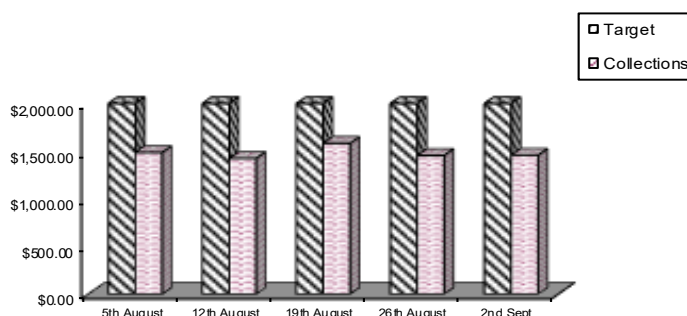
**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ \*\*1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION\*\*:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit 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**

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 686.35
<b>Second Collection</b>	Loose Plate	\$ 342.35
<i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,458.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



## DON'T IGNORE THE 'UNWORTHY'

It's difficult not to make distinctions. Invariably, we favour some people over others. For example: we choose our friends, we choose a person to be our husband or wife, we choose 'sides' in disputes, we choose to avoid some people, and we choose to forgive some people and condemn others.

In the second reading, St James calls on believers never to make distinctions or show favour on the basis of social class, wealth, position, status or power. Everyone is to be treated equally regardless of their social background, and when it comes to worship, there are to be no seats of honour set aside for VIPs! Everyone ought to feel equally welcome and valued.

St Paul has a similar vision. In his letter to the Galatians (3:28) he declares that in virtue of baptism, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Jesus doesn't make distinctions based on social class. In fact, the gospels portray him as having particular concern for the poor, the outcast, the voiceless, the afflicted, the vulnerable and the weak. Today's gospel is a classic example. A deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus by his friends.

In such an oral and aural culture where people were generally illiterate, not to be able to speak or hear properly was a significant disadvantage. Such people were virtually invisible. They couldn't communicate, and they couldn't be communicated with, in any meaningful way. Thankfully, the man in the story is blessed to have caring friends who bring him to Jesus who has a reputation for giving new life.

Jesus gives very personal attention to the man. He takes him away from the crowd, so that they can be alone. Although the man can't hear or speak, he *can* experience the sense of touch, and so Jesus touches his ears, puts his fingers into them, and touches the man's tongue with his own spittle. Jesus also looks up to heaven, in prayer, for it was Jesus' relationship with God that will bring new life to the man.

It's important to remember that the man was not a Jew. The Decapolis ("ten cities") was predominantly Gentile territory. But, there's no distinction here. Jesus is the Messiah for all nations. He saw a brother in need, and in solidarity, lovingly reached out to him.

St James challenges us to 'look around' our faith community. Do we see any unhealthy favouritism? Are there people being forgotten, ignored or made to feel unwelcome? Are there voices not being heard? Are there people being discouraged from sharing their gifts and talents, or from becoming involved? Are people's contributions being devalued? Hopefully, such things are not happening; however, it's important for us all to 'keep our eyes and ears open'.

David J Hore © Majellan Media 2024

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

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ~ 8TH SEPTEMBER:

This feast day commemorates the birth day of Mary. There are only three birthdays on the liturgical calendar: Mary, Jesus, and John the Baptist.



### DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS TUESDAY 10.00 AM AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LENNOX HEAD.

**PARISH HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: 'THANK YOU'** to all parishioners who attended the Parish lunch on Saturday 31st August. A wonderful time was had by all with friendship and good food the theme of the day. Thank you to Father Peter and Father Anselm for supporting this parish event, your company was very much appreciated. **'Congratulations'** to Father Lou Samyia on winning the lucky door prize.



### ABOUT THE PUBLIC ROSARY :

The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (October 13th, 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer. In 2023, there were 180 groups registered to pray the Rosary throughout Australia.

#### THE IMPORTANCE

- It is a public witness of the faith
- Public Reparation – many blasphemies are taking place in public and so we must also make reparation in public. At Fatima, Our Lady said to the children: "You saw hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world."
- We are praying for God's merciful blessing to be poured out to our country, for conversion of families to turn back to God.
- Public prayer is powerful: In his monumental work, *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis de Montfort states: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

Please join us in praying for our nation on **Saturday 12th October 11.00 am to 12.00 noon** in the park opposite Holy Family Catholic Church, Lennox Head.



**ALPHA IS COMING – Explore Meaning, Life, and Faith Thursdays 17th October – 5th December, 5:30 – 7:30 pm St Francis Xavier Parish Administration Centre**

**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. There are procedures in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or adults at risk. email:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



# Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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.

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7**  
*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bound down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: James 2:1-5**  
*A reading from the letter of St James*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ,  
our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between  
classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your

synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all were sick.

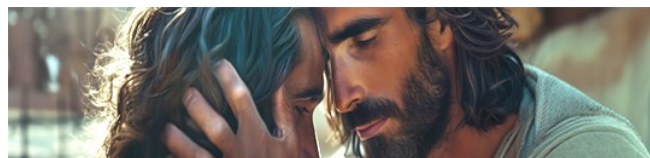
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES**

**TUESDAY 10th ~ WEDNESDAY 11th ~ THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

**FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars for ever.

**Communion Antiphon:** We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Tyre and Sidon are cities on the Mediterranean coast in the far north of Israel, now southern Lebanon. They were the leading cities of the Phoenicians. This was not Jewish territory. Jesus has entered the realm of Gentiles.
- The Decapolis was a federation of ten cities with a largely Greek culture. Most were in the area of the eastern side of the Jordan River to the south of the Sea of Galilee.
- 'Ephphatha' is an Aramaic word. Aramaic was a commonly spoken Semitic language and probably the language spoken by Jesus.
- The Gospels were written in Greek but we sometimes encounter evidence of an earlier written Aramaic source of stories about Jesus or evidence at least of earlier oral traditions which preserve the Aramaic sayings of Jesus.
- The deaf hearing and the dumb speaking are signs of the coming of the Messiah and the advent of the kingdom of God. Jesus the Messiah is bringing the kingdom of God to fulfilment now!

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

- Be attentive this week to the way gestures and touch can be used to welcome or to exclude. Open your ears to what others are really saying. Open your ears in a special way to what the gospel is saying to you.
- Use the Entrance Antiphon of the liturgy this week:

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*