

# 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.**

### 2nd Sunday of Lent (C)

**16th March, 2025**



### 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**  
**MONDAY 12.00 NOON FOR THIS WEEK.**

**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 Patrick

**Mass at 12.00 noon Monday**

St Joseph  
 Wednesday

We invite everyone to our faith community.

### PARISH NOTICES



**THIS MONDAY 17th MARCH ~ FEAST OF ST PATRICK**  
**MASS AT 12.00 NOON**



**BAPTISM** : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:  
**Alex John Milton**, son of Ryan and Maddison;  
**Alfred William and Penelope Pearl Johnston** children of Peter and Louise.



### PROJECT COMPASSION

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
 15th and 16th of March 2025

**Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413



### CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The next Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on **Monday 24th March at**

**3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street.

Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome.**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** *each Friday during Lent* at 5.30 pm in St Francis Xavier Church.

**The CATHOLIC WEEKLY** on sale following each weekend Mass. **\$2.00 a copy**

**DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS** Tuesday at 10.00 am Holy Family Church Lennox Head.

**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  
**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

**3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C: 22nd/23rd March 2025**

**Readings: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12; Luke 13:1-9**

	<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>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Bryan Marriott Mick Vella</i>	<i>Mark McDonald Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Richard Goss Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Maxine Cole</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Peter Bowen Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Cathy Andrews Dianna Evans</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Gordan Albany (*Sydney*),  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Alan (Ace) Ayton, Rose Mulgrew, Elne Verdeflor, Boleslaw Jarzynski, Maureen Sullivan, Yvonne Tagget, Monica Dwyer, Margaret Clissold, Kerry Rouge  
**AND ALSO FOR:** *Peter Tiernan, 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:** Pope Francis, Maureen Borthistle (*Dalby*), Kevin Sullivan, Sr Moria (*Bathurst*), Father Bob Bossini (*Fairfield*), Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie 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'Veve (*London*), Jackie Wotton, 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

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025**

<b>17th March</b>	<b>Monday 10.30 am</b>	<b>Marian Cenacle Anawim Room</b>
	<b>TAIZE IS NOW IN RECESS</b>	
<b>17th March</b>	<b>Monday 5.30 pm MTR Admin Centre</b>	<b>Bible Study Gospel of St John</b>
<b>17th March</b>	<b>Monday 2.30-3.30 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Reflection MTR Admin Centre</b>
<b>18th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>Devotion to the Holy Face,</b>
<b>18th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>19th March</b>	<b>Wednesday 8.00 am</b>	<b>menAlive Lennox Head</b>
<b>19th March</b>	<b>Wednesday 9.00-10.00 am</b>	<b>Lenten Reflection MTR Admin Centre</b>
<b>20th March</b>	<b>Thursday 2.00 pm</b>	<b>'The Chosen' St Teresa Room</b>
<b>21st March</b>	<b>Friday 9.30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Gospel of St John</b>
<b>21st March</b>	<b>Friday 5.30 pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>24th March</b>	<b>Monday 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Crowley Auxiliary Meeting</b>
<b>25th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 9.30 am to 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Safeguarding Training</b>

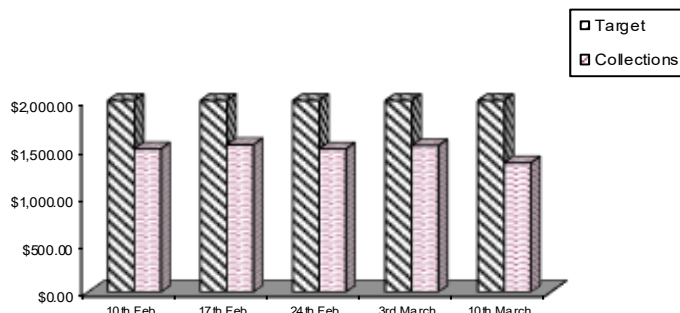
**THANK YOU to all Parishioners** for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father 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 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099 or online www.dif.org.au**

**THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 426.65
<b>Second Collection</b>	Loose Plate	\$ 192.65
<i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,349.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



## TIME TO EMBRACE THE MOUNTAIN

In Celtic Christianity, there is a concept of "thin spaces"—places where the boundary between the earthly and the divine feels particularly close. In the Biblical stories, mountains often serve as “thin spaces”, where moments of transcendence lead to direct encounters with the sacred.

In the Old Testament, mountains are consistently portrayed as spaces where the divine presence breaks into the phenomenal world. Abraham’s profound test of faith occurs on Mount Moriah, where his willingness to sacrifice Isaac leads to an encounter with God’s fidelity (Genesis 22:1-14). Moses’ transformative moments with God also take place on mountains—first the mountain of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-2), and later Mount Sinai, where he receives the law amidst thunder, lightning, and divine glory (Exodus 19).

Elijah, too, finds God not in the dramatic but in a gentle whisper on the same mountain (1 Kings 19:8-18). These stories highlight the mountain as a place where ordinary life is interrupted, and profound clarity and divine presence are experienced.

In the New Testament, Jesus exemplifies the importance of seeking out these thin spaces. He goes up a mountain to pray alone (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12), teaches his disciples on mountains (Matthew 5:1; Mark 3:13), and resists Satan’s temptations there (Matthew 4:8; Luke 4:5). The Transfiguration, one of the most striking mountain episodes, occurs when Jesus ascends with Peter, James, and John and is revealed in divine glory, speaking with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:28-36). These moments are pivotal, as they illuminate the necessity of stepping away from the world to gain spiritual insight and strength.

The Transfiguration story reminds us of the rhythm between mountain-top experiences and the everyday challenges of life. After descending from the mountain, Jesus embarks on his journey to Jerusalem, encountering the complexities of human suffering and marginalised communities. This pattern mirrors our own lives, where moments of spiritual clarity must eventually translate into action and compassion in the thick of daily existence.

Taking time to “go up the mountain” and enter the rarified atmosphere above is essential. It is only there that we step away from the noise of daily life to seek clarity and gain perspective. These encounters are opportunities to pray, reflect, and encounter God. They help us to take stock of our priorities and discern the path ahead for the “thick spaces” where we live our lives rarely mindful of the divine reality that underpins all existence.

This Lent, we are called to embrace the mountain as a metaphor for renewal. Whether through prayer, retreat, or silent reflection, let us ascend to meet God in the thin spaces, allowing these moments to transform our hearts. May these experiences empower us to live with renewed purpose, carrying the grace of our divine encounters into every interaction and challenge. The mountain is not an escape but a vantage point, reminding us of the deeper call to love, serve, and remain rooted in God amidst the complexities of the world.

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2025

**TAIZÉ IS NOW IN RECESS, TAIZE WILL RETURN FOLLOWING EASTER.**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact the Parish Administration Office at 6681 1048



**Music Ministry:**  
at the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass



**Mass Readers:**  
at the 11:00am Sunday Mass



**Powerpoint Operators:**  
at the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass  
& the 9:00am Sunday Mass

**& 11.00 am Sunday Mass commitment of 1 Mass a month**

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."  
1 Peter 4:10*

## PARISH VOLUNTEERS WITH WWCC ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

# Training Invitation

Ballina & Surrounding Parish

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**9:30 - 12:00pm**  
St Francis Xavier Parish,  
Cherry Street, Ballina  
For all Church personnel, volunteers, parishioners

**Agenda:**  
**Safeguarding Awareness: 9.30-10.45**  
Learn all about the Diocese Code of Conduct and our culture of safeguarding  
**Mandatory Reporting & Reportable Conduct: 11.00 - 11.45**  
For those who are required to hold a WWCC for their role within the church

**Bishop Greg encourages your attendance at the session with the Diocese Safeguarding Office.**

**Come along in support of the Diocese, as we build a strong safeguarding culture.**

MORNING TEA AND A CUPPA WILL BE PROVIDED



Office of the Children's Guardian  
The Diocese of Lismore  
Safeguarding Training supports the NSW Child Safe Standards and the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Standards



ACSL  
A safe Church for everyone



RSVP:  
Bernadette at the Parish Office or  
Christine at the Diocese Safeguarding Office:  
Phone: 02 6621 9444 (Chancery)  
Email: cthompson@lismore.catholic.org.au

## GRIEF & LOSS SEMINAR


**St Mary's Parish Hall,**  
**Cnr Canterbury & West Streets, Casino.**  
**Friday 21st March 7.00 pm**  
**Saturday 22nd March, 10.00 am**  
**Father Ray Sanchez explores how people of faith deal with Grief and Loss and how to help others.**  
**Register with St Mary's Parish Office**  
**Phn 6662 1025**

## BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALK ~ THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

This Monday at 6.00 pm 17th then 24th March. St Mary's Chapel, Cathedral Grounds: It will be available to view on the YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU>  
**All are most welcome!**

**Christian Meditation Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048.  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 11.00 am Friday.  
**Prayer of the Church & Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am Ballina  
**CCR:** Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029.

**Taizé:** Every second Monday SFX Church from 12.00 noon.  
**Marian Cenacle:** Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.  
**Parish Youth Group:** 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Upper Room Parish Admin Building **Sunday evenings.**  
**Ladies Rosary:** 1st Tuesday of the month 1.30 pm phn Pauline 0438435 566  
**You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.**



**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.

**First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18;***A reading from the book of Genesis*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life  
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
Of you my heart has spoken:  
'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,  
hide not your face.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help. **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:20- 4:1***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!****Gospel: Luke 9:28-36***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****MONDAY 17th MARCH ~ FEAST OF ST PATRICK**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

**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.

**TUESDAY 18th MARCH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death, lest my enemy say: I have overcome him.

**Communion Antiphon:** I will recount all your wonders. I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High

**WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH ~ FEAST OF ST JOSEPH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over his household.

**Communion Antiphon:** Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy.

**THURSDAY 20th MARCH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Test me, O God, and know my thoughts. See that my path is not wicked, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

**FRIDAY 21st MARCH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** In you, O Lord, I put my trust, let me never be put to shame; release me from the snare they have hidden for me, for you indeed are my refuge.

**Communion Antiphon:** God loved us, and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

*Reflect: God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly with your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.*



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516



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