

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 Advent (C)

8th 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

**The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Monday
St Lucy
Friday

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 2nd Candle*

PRIEST: Lord Jesus yours is the voice that calls us back from the wilderness
PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS
PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you baptise us with water and the Holy Spirit
PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS
PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you are the bearer of Good News
PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS

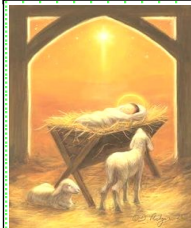


FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Our parish will have **Mass at 12.00 noon**
THIS 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.*

TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 9th DECEMBER @ 1.30 PM FOLLOWING THE
MIDDAY MASS IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH. All welcome.
This is our final Taizé for 2024 resuming in February 2025



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
5.30 pm & 7.30 pm

St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

Wednesday Christmas Day
7.30 am Mass

Holy Family Church Lennox Head

9.00 am & 11.00 am Mass
St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

PARISH ANOINTING MASS ~ Friday 20th December
12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



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

3rd Sunday Advent, Year C: 14th/15th December, 2024
Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18; Psalm Isaiah 12; Philipians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Bryan Marriott Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington Jean Mackay</i>	<i>Richard Goss Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>John Jarzynski Maurice Gahan</i>
EMOHC	<i>Matt Ritchie Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Maddy Pride</i>	<i>Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Sandra Jones, Rodney Haydon, Betty Harris,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Peter Newport, Margaret Pyne
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: Issac Kruger, 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'Fevé (*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, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunt 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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024		
9th Dec	Monday 12.00 noon Mass <i>Parish Vol Mass</i>	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9th Dec	Monday 1.30 pm <i>Final for 2024</i>	TAIZE SFX Church
10th Dec	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
14th Dec	THIS Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church	Parish Advent Reflection Morning
18th Dec	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
20th Dec	Friday 12.00 Noon Mass	Parish Anoint Mass

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 FRANCIS XAVIER
CONNECT
ALL ARE WELCOME ALL BELONG

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CONNECT NEWSLETTER**

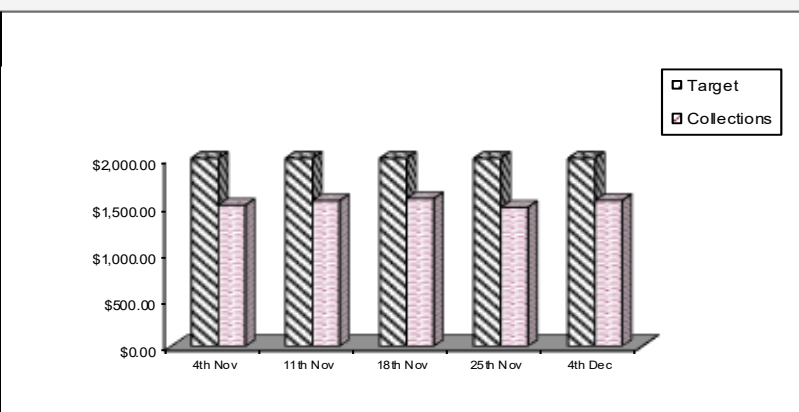
The third edition of the parish 'CONNECT' is now available in our Churches and on line. Don't miss out on your **FREE** copy of the final edition for 2024.
CONNECT will be back in 2025.

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>	\$ 564.20
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 304.30
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,551.40
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



PREPARING A WAY FOR THE LORD

One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is *The Flower Thrower*. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.

John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all that John currently preaches.

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate but is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the entirety of life's circumstances.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (On Violence, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.

In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LGBTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weill in *Waiting for God* describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us." Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2024

**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.



**St Vincent de Paul Society
St Francis Xavier Conference Ballina**

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER
Catholic Parish Ballina
PRESENTS**

**2024
ADVENT MORNING
of Reflection**

9AM SATURDAY, 14TH DECEMBER
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH BALLINA

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this Parish event in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

We will conclude with morning tea - a chance to meet and chat with other parishioners

ADORATION
BENEDICTION
REFLECTIONS
RECONCILIATION
SCRIPTURE ROSARY

ST VINCENT de PAUL will hold their annual summer appeal THIS weekend. Envelopes will be available at the entrance of the church. Every dollar counts

2024 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER (roster board at the back of church)

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
Maxine Cole &

EMOHC

Peter Bowen ~ Phil Chapman

9.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers
Bill Duffy & Gemma Duffy

EMOHC

11.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

EMOHC

Maxine Cole

CHRISTMAS DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME: The Christmas Offering is made to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all those in receipt of an income have an obligation to support the works of the Church through the Planned Giving Program, it is a responsibility of all of us to support the clergy, keeping in mind that they need to eat too. We offer this support by giving to the first collection on Sundays and through Christmas and Easter Dues. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others can place an offering in an envelope and write "Christmas Dues" on the outside. By the way, the offering doesn't go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese. Thank you for your support.

ENVELOPES CAN BE PLACED ON THE COLLECTION PLATES AT ANY WEEKEND MASS.

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9;*A reading from the prophet Baruch*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6,8-11*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 3:1-6***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****MONDAY 9th DECEMBER ~ THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.

Communion Antiphon: The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.

WEDNESDAY 11th 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 12th 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 13th DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST LUCY

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.



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.