

# 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 Easter  
(Divine Mercy Sunday)  
(C)**

**27th April, 2025**

*Alleluia*

**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  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
12.00 noon Ballina**

**ADORATION FRIDAY**  
11.00 am to 11.45 am



**RECONCILIATION**  
9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church  
+++++

**FEAST DAYS**

**St Catherine of Siena**  
*Tuesday*  
**St Pius V**  
*Wednesday*  
**St Joseph the Worker**  
*Thursday*  
**St Athanasius**  
*Friday*

*We invite everyone to our faith community.*



**BAPTISM** : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:  
**William, Thomas Maxwell and Luna Rose Kelly**  
children of Richard an Belinda



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Come to the **Divine Mercy Commemoration** with Merciful Jesus, this afternoon, **Holy Family Church, Lennox Head** at **2.00 pm**.  
Eucharistic Adoration and Praying Chaplet of Divine Mercy. (Confessions available).  
Cuppa and fellowship afterwards. Bring a 'treat' to share.



**'PARISH 'CUPPA'**  
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church,  
**Sunday 4th May, following the 9.00 am Mass**  
and the **11.00 am Mass, in the Church grounds**  
*Everyone is very welcome.*



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY**: The next Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held **THIS Monday 28th April at 3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina.  
Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.  
*You will be most Welcome.*



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON**

**Thursday 8th May 2025, ~ Crowley Activity Centre ~**  
**11.30 am—3.00 pm ~**

**\$55.00 pp ~ BYO Drinks ~ Pease RSVP and pay via cash of card at Crowley Reception by Friday 2nd May. Please advise of any special dietary requirements.**



**Collection Plates**

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S  
PARISH  
BALLINA/LENNOX HEAD**

**1st COLLECTION**

**For the Support of  
the CLERGY**

We are pleased to announce that the second collection plate has recommenced. The **first** collection (blue envelope) is for the priests of our Diocese. The **second** collection is Planned Giving envelopes (red) for our Parish. Cash is accepted on each collection plate.  
Thank you for your continued support.

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S  
PARISH  
BALLINA/LENNOX HEAD**

**2nd COLLECTION**

**My Weekly Offering  
for the Work of God  
in our Parish**

**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 Associates:** Kailani Tiernan/Pauline Fingleton  
**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](http://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 Easter Year C: 3rd/4th May 2025**  
**Readings: Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Psalm 29; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Kristie Coster Trish Bazar</i>	Angela Beglin Marie Sullivan	Nicole Sullivan Wendy Hughes	Maxine Cole Leanne Robbins
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>John Jarzynski Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Mark McDonald</i>	<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Peter Bowen</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Ron Hughes Joan Hollingsworth</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Kim Holwell (Lismore) Pope Francis, Kevin Nicholls, Sr Moria Sullivan RSM (*Bathurst*), Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*),

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS, TIME:** Fabian Okeke, Peter Solari, Hugo Long, Neville Butler, Tom Pyne,

**AND ALSO FOR:** *Philippe Picquet, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret 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 Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.*

**AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL:** Anne Louise Dillon (Melbourne), Steven Kennesey & family, Sr Mary McFadden PBVM, Maureen Borthistle (*Dalby*), Kevin Sullivan, 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, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Feve (*London*), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, 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, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in*

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025**

<b>27th April</b>	<b>Sunday 2.00 pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Lennox Head</b>
<b>28th April</b>	<b>Monday 10.30 am</b>	<b>Marian Cenacle Anawim Room</b>
<b>28th April</b>	<b>Monday 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation &amp; music</b>
<b>28th April</b>	<b>Monday 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting</b>
<b>29th April</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>30th April</b>	<b>Wednesday 8.00 am</b>	<b>menAlive Lennox Head</b>
<b>4th May</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am &amp; 11.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Cuppa Grounds of Church</b>
<b>5th May</b>	<b>Monday 10.00 am to 11.45 am</b>	<b>2025 Alpha MTR</b>
<b>8th May</b>	<b>Thursday 11.30 am</b>	<b>Annual Mothers' Day Lunch Crowley Care</b>
<b>11th May</b>	<b>Sunday (all day)</b>	<b>Mothers' Day</b>

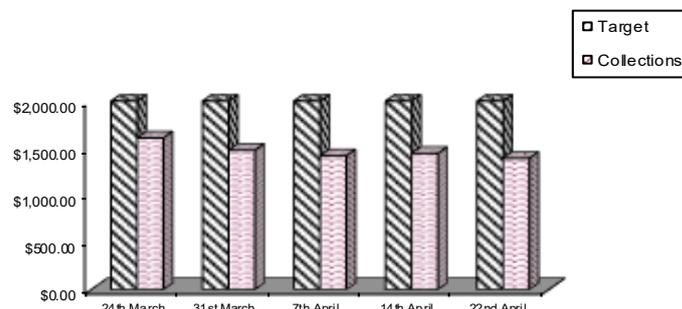
**THANK YOU to all Parishioners** for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father 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>	\$ 2,414.65
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 1,080.00
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,393.50
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



**Trusting Jesus to catch us**

Fear can be such a paralysing emotion. With its familiar twin, anxiety, it keeps us from acting or thinking constructively and clouds our awareness of grace. In this week's gospel reading, the disciples are gathered in fear behind closed doors. They are terrified about what may happen next.

Suddenly, they find Jesus standing in their midst. He offers them his peace, showing them his hands and side. They are overjoyed and their fear is dispelled. This is no fleeting reassurance. He repeats his blessing of peace and exhorts them to go forth in courage. He breathes on them and confers on each of them, the gift of his spirit.

It is a sacred moment, preparing them for a time when he would no longer be physically present with them. Yet, his spirit would remain with them always. This would be no passive presence but a dynamic, enlivening, divine presence which would animate them. They would be his witnesses to his love and redemption throughout the world.

Jesus's words of mission also foreshadow his words at his ascension: I am with you always (Matthew 28:20). It also foreshadows the coming of the Holy Spirit in the mighty wind of Pentecost.

The calling to a life of mission is not without risk. In his book, *Flying, Falling and Catching: An Unlikely Story of Finding Freedom*, Dutch priest, theologian and psychologist Henri Nouwen described a life changing encounter with a travelling trapeze troupe, the Flying Rodleighs. He was amazed at how they flew through the air. He befriended the troupe and even travelled for a short time with them.

Nouwen once asked Rodleigh, the troupe's leader, the secret of a successful trapeze act. Rodleigh explained that, as a flyer, he had to have complete trust in his catcher. The secret was for the flyer to do nothing and trust the catcher to do everything, to catch him as he flew through the air and pull him safely onto the platform. In fact, the worst thing the flyer could do is to try and catch the catcher. If he tried to grab the catcher's wrists, it could end disastrously for them both. Nouwen suggested this as a sublime metaphor for our invitation to let go of fear and trust God utterly in all the circumstances of our life and beyond.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once described faith, not as belief in certainty, but as the courage to live with uncertainty. The figure of Thomas in today's gospel, wanting certainty, expresses the parts of our being which are still held back by fear and anxiety. We fear stepping forward into the unknown and allow our fears to sideline God's promise of his abiding presence. Nevertheless, Jesus invites us to trust him completely. Like the catcher in Nouwen's story, he promises to catch us as we fly through the air to him. He lovingly and unconditionally embraces all our fears, our frailty and our vulnerability. His peace enlivens our mission to go forth in courage and proclaim the good news. He is risen and, indeed, he will be with us always.

Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2025

**PARISH NOTICES**

Would you like to know more about **volunteering** to take Holy Communion to **aged care home residents**? Please join the aged care volunteers for a coffee on Tuesday 29th April at 3pm at the Bowling Club. Pauline 0438 435 566."

**TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 28TH APRIL 12.00 NOON**  
**SFX CHURCH**

*Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation through Meditation, Music and Silence*

**DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS**

Will recommence Tuesday 6th May 10.00 am Lennox Head



**'We would like to take this time to THANK'**

everyone at Ballina and Lennox Head who were involved in the ceremonies for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, especially Deacon Anthony, our Altar Servers and Acolytes Phil & John, our Readers, our Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, our organists in both Churches together with our parish choirs, our Sacristans, Monica and Michelle who arrange the flowers in our churches, Pauline and Maxine our laptop operator, and those who warmly welcomed people into our church. To all who attended our Easter ceremonies, **thank you.**

*Father Peter and Father Anselm.*



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

**THANK YOU!**

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us! 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**



**EXPLORE**

**Meaning**

**Get connected Life and explore faith with others**

**Faith**

Alpha is a series of sessions that freely explore the big questions of life. It's an opportunity to get connected, discover more about the Christian faith, and share your thoughts in a friendly environment.

**You're Invited**

**St Francis Xavier Parish Admin Centre**  
**Cnr Cherry & Swift Streets Ballina**

**Weekly Sessions on a Monday 10am - 11.45am**  
**Commencing May 5th - June 30th**



- Gather together and get connected
- Watch an episode on a topic of faith
- Ask questions and share your thoughts

**Morning Tea provided**

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Phone Ballina Parish Office on 6681 1048,  
Scan the QR Code or [Click Here](#) .  
For more info contact Pauline on 0438 435 566.



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

**Invest with peace of mind**

[www.dif.org.au](http://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: Acts 5:12-16***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say:  
‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:  
‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:  
‘His love has no end.’ **(R.)**

2. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

3. O Lord, grant us salvation;  
O Lord grant success.  
Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
the true God is our light. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Revelations 1:9-13,17-19***A reading from the book of the Apocalypse*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God’s word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord’s day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, ‘Write down all that you see in a book.’ I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by

them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, ‘Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.’

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

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**Alleluia!****Gospel: John 20:19-31***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you.’

‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him:

‘You believe because you can see me.’

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 29th APRIL ~ FEAST OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent, who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, alleluia.

**WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL ~ FEAST OF ST PIUS V**

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

**Communion Antiphon:** The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

**THURSDAY 1st MAY ~ FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

**FRIDAY 2nd MAY ~ FEAST OF ATHANASIUS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ, alleluia.

**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](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au). Procedures are in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or adults at risk.

