

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 in Ordinary Time (C)

19th January 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
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 Agnes
 Tuesday

St Vincent
 Wednesday

St Francis de Sales
 Friday

The Conversion of St Paul
 Saturday

We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Max Charles Barlow** son of Nicole.

SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Robyn Hancock** who has sadly passed away. A Funeral Prayer service will be held **this** Thursday 23rd January at 10.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church.



CATECHISTS MATTER

URGENT! Volunteers NEEDED for 2025
 An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.



Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools? Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.



VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!! URGENT REQUEST!
HELP OUR PARISH ILLUMINATE THE WORD.
 The laptop projection helps guide our prayer, hymns and participation by displaying our Mass responses and the words of hymns.

Please consider volunteering to help operate the laptop computer during our weekend Masses.

The only requirement is a willingness to serve on a roster once a month at a weekend Mass of your preference. No experience required, training and support given.

This small act of service can make a big difference.
To volunteer or learn more please contact the parish office 6681 1048 or speak with the laptop operator after Mass. Thank you.



PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, Sunday 2nd February, following the 9.00 am Mass. Our first for 2025, please come together and share in friendship with your parish community. *Everyone is very welcome.*

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
 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 in Ordinary Time, Year C: 25th/26th January 2025
Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Bryan Marriott Trish Bazar</i>	<i>Mark McDonald Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Nicole Sullivan Wendy Hughes</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Gemma Duffy</i>
EMOHC	<i>Jeanette Wilkins Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Cathy Campbell.</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession				



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mary Jill Deeps (*Cootamundra, mother of Murray*) Robyn Hancock, (*daughter of Kathy Fraser*), Dawn McLellan, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Stan Parry, Jack Patch, Camille Martin, Corlie Moreland, Joan Charteris,

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: Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, 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'Feve (*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, Noline 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, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell,

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

21st January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
2nd February	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa in the Church grounds
3rd February	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation & music
4th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face, Lennox Head
5th February	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
5th February	Wednesday 9.30 am	Office of the Children's Guardian Training Day Upper Room Parish Admin
		
8th February	Saturday 7.30 am—9.30 am	Catholic Men's Breakfast
10th February 14th Feb	Monday 5.30 pm MTR Parish Admin Friday 9.30 am	Bible Study Gospel of John
5th March	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
7th March	Friday	World Day of Prayer

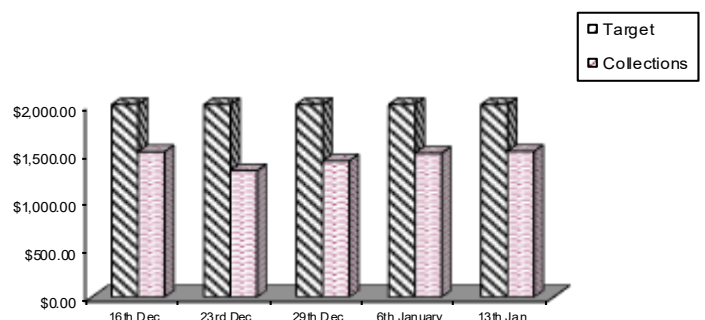
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter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

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 649.20
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 378.15
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,514.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



A NEW WINE FOR OUR AGE

Of all Jesus' miracles, we might think his turning water into wine is the least significant. However, for John, this miracle at the wedding feast of Cana takes pride of place as the first of the 'signs' given by Jesus.

Other 'signs' in John's gospel include healing miracles, feeding the 5,000, Jesus walking on water and raising Lazarus from the dead. While John acknowledges there were "many other signs," he chooses these seven 'signs' so "you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (Jn. 20:30).

Each of these miracle-signs is a foretaste of the single, great miracle of Jesus' resurrection. So, what lessons can we draw from the wedding feast of Cana? First, this is the only recorded miracle that Jesus performed for friends and family. Elsewhere, he seems to dismiss any special significance for family: "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Mtt. 12:50). On another occasion, when returning to Nazareth, we are told Jesus was so "amazed by their lack of faith ... he could work no miracles there" (Mk 6:5f.).

Second, there is the extraordinary interchange between Jesus and his mother, Mary. It is Mary who confronts her son with the problem: "They have no wine!" We need to note, at this point, Jesus had not given any indication of special powers. Next, we cannot help but notice Jesus' annoyance in stating his time had not yet come. But Mary, unperturbed, tells the waiter: "Do whatever he tells you." We know the rest of the story: Jesus not only turns water into wine, but it is the best possible wine.

The human dimension of this story is compelling. Jesus and his disciples know how to celebrate life. No doubt they told yarns, sang songs and danced well into the night. But the time would come when they would face a crisis and be asked to lay down their lives. Interestingly, the next time we hear of Mary in John's gospel is at Jesus' crucifixion. Just as Mary is present to witness the beginning of Jesus' public life at Cana, she is also there to witness what is, for John, the birth of the Church at Calvary.

We are similarly living in a time of transition – what Pope Francis calls a "change of era" – when the old wine is running out. Like Mary, we are asked to place our vulnerable trust in Jesus who, with the gift of the Spirit, is the new wine for our age. Like the first disciples and early Christians, we know we live in a time of human and political crisis that also embroils society and church. We can only but trust in God who alone is able to turn the water of our fears into the new wine of God's creative presence and enduring love.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2025

**Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus will resume Tuesday 4th February 10.00 am
Holy Family Church Lennox Head**

TAIZÉ WILL RECOMMENCE FOR 2025 MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 12.00 NOON SFX CHURCH
Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation through Meditation, Music and Silence

PLEASE NOTE: All parish volunteers with WWCC are encouraged to attend this training day; please call the Parish office to register your attendance. 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a special
CATHOLIC MEN'S PARISH BREAKFAST – a morning of faith, fellowship, and good food.

Details:

- **Date: Saturday, 8th February**
- **Time: 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM**
- **Venue: Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 419 Hinterland Way, Knockrow**
- **Cost: \$20 per head (to be paid to the SFX Ballina admin office)**

Breakfast Menu:

- Fresh fruit salad and yoghurt
- Bacon and egg breakfast roll
- Your choice of coffee, tea, or juice

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parish members in a relaxed and inspiring setting. Feel free to invite friends or family members who would enjoy this meaningful gathering.

RSVP by MONDAY 3rd February to confirm your spot. We look forward to sharing this special morning with you!

PRAYING THE ROSARY : FROM TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Ladies of our parish are invited to pray the Rosary on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Please phone Pauline on 0438 435 566 for further details.



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.

Office of the Children's Guardian

DIocese of LISMORE

free

TRAINING

A Safeguarding Workshop

PRESENTED BY CRAIG THACKER
CHILD SAFE TRAINING OFFICER

February 5, 2025
In person
9:30 AM - 1 PM

St Francis Xavier
Catholic Parish
Ballina

Register now!

Reporting Obligations and Processes
9:30am - 11:00am

Empowerment and Participation
11:30am - 1:00pm

Tea, Coffee and a Light Lunch will be provided

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 CDFP 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 62:1-5;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

About Zion I will not be silent,
 about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
 until her integrity shines out like the dawn
 and her salvation flames like a torch.
 The nations then will see your integrity,
 all the kings your glory,
 and you will be called by a new name,
 one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
 You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
 a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
 no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
 nor your land 'Abandoned',
 but you shall be called 'My Delight'
 and your land 'The Wedded';
 for the Lord takes delight in you
 and your land will have its wedding.
 Like a young man marrying a virgin,
 so will the one who built you wed you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
 so will your God rejoice in you.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
 sing to the Lord all the earth.
 O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
 tell among the nations his glory
 and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
 give the Lord glory and power,
 give the Lord the glory of his name. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
 O earth, tremble before him.
 Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
 He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11;*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are
 all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord;

working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is
 the same God who is working in all of them. The particular
 way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good
 purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom
 given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preach-
 ing instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the
 gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of
 healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles;
 another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; an-
 other the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret
 them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who
 distributes different gifts to different people just as he
 chooses.

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

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our
 Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!**Gospel: John 2:1-11***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus
 was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited.
 When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the
 wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him,
 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My
 hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do
 whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars stand-
 ing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among
 the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said
 to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them
 to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to
 the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and
 it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from –
 only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the stew-
 ard called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve
 the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests
 have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till
 now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at
 Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples
 believed in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 21st JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST AGNES**

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offer-
 ing, 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.

WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST VINCENT ~ ~ ~ THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most
 High!

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

FRIDAY 24th JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST FRANCIS de SALES

Entrance Antiphon: I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the
 Lord, will be their God.

Communion Antiphon: It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and
 bear fruit, fruit that will last.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In John's gospel, Jesus performs only seven 'signs', and each is designed to reveal something of who he is. Here he
 ushers in the messianic banquet, a symbol of the Messiah often used in the Jewish Scriptures.
- This is the third of the 'manifestations' of Christ, read in succession over the last three weeks.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Repeat often this week: *Lord, you provide drink for my thirst and food for my hunger.
 Lord, may I always share in your abundance.*