

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.**

3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

23rd 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
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 Day

**The Annunciation
of the Lord**
Tuesday

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:

Taj Brown and Belle Brown Kennedy children of Stuart and Ashlee.



Reintroduction of the Second Collection Plate

We are pleased to announce that the second collection plate will recommence on Easter weekend. The **first collection** continues to support the clergy—not individual priests, but the diocesan clergy fund. The **second collection** directly supports the needs of our parish, ensuring we can continue our mission and maintain our parish community. This practice was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, but its return is vital to sustaining our parish. Your generosity and ongoing support are deeply appreciated.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The next Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on

This 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.*



PARISH 'CUPPA'

in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, Sunday 6th April, following the 9.00 am Mass and the 11.00 am Mass.

Everyone is very welcome.



THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY ~ MASS

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

GOOD FRIDAY ~ LITURGY

3.00 pm ~ Lennox Head

3.00 pm ~ Ballina

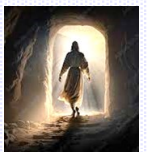
HOLY SATURDAY ~ VIGIL

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

7.30 am ~ Lennox Head

9.00 am & 11.00 am ~ Ballina



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**

www.sfxballina.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

PARISH LIBRARY:

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

4th Sunday of Lent, Year C: 29th/30th March 2025
Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 33; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	XCC XCC	Jean Mackay Marie Sullivan	Nicole Sullivan Wendy Hughes	Ross Goss Gemma Duffy
EMOHC	XCC Phil Chapman	Mark McDonald	Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Cheryl Bowen
Offertory Procession			Ron Hughes Joan Hollingsworth	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Keith Donnelly, Elizabeth Townsend, Luke Mazzer (*Wagga, formerly Kyogle*),

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Tony Lannan, Betty Flakelar, Kathryn Nomchong, Kath Hankinson

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 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: 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, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell,

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

24th March	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
24th March	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Meeting
24th March	Monday 5.30 pm MTR Admin Centre	Bible Study Gospel of St John
24th March	Monday 2.30-3.30 pm	Lenten Reflection MTR Admin Centre
25th March	Tuesday 9.30 am to 12.00 noon	Safeguarding Training
25th March	Tuesday 10.00 am Lennox Head	Devotion to the Holy Face,
25th March	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
26th March	Wednesday 9.00-10.00 am	Lenten Reflection MTR Admin Centre
27th March	Thursday 2.00 pm	'The Chosen' St Teresa Room
28th March	Friday 9.30 am	Bible Study Gospel of St John
28th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
6th April	Sunday 9.45 am & 11.45 am	Parish Cuppa
12th April	Saturday 9.00 am	2025 Parish Reflection Morning

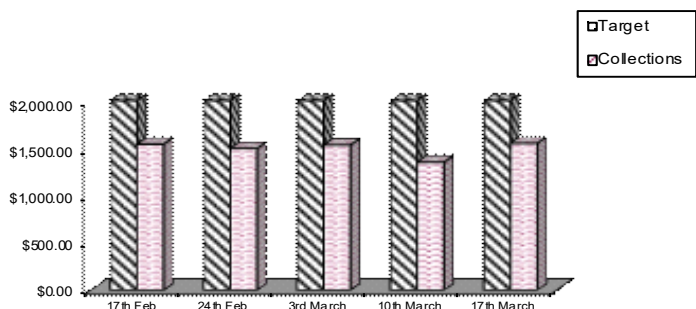
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterian collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 761.55
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 372.50
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,548.45
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



BEARING FRUIT IN OUR LIVES

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. I saw these words on a poster in an employment agency I blessed. Yes, so often we judge others, based on first impressions. Once formed, first impressions can be difficult to let go, in order for us to give someone another chance or see them anew. It's not easy to change our opinions or judgements.

Thankfully, God doesn't relate to us in this way. God is "compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy," and offers us many chances and opportunities to change, and to free ourselves from whatever weighs us down or prevents us from living as people of love committed to Christ and His Kingdom. This week's gospel parable illustrates this truth perfectly.

A fig tree requires the right conditions to produce fruit. The tree in the parable remains fruitless after three years. The vineyard owner wants the gardener to cut it down because it's taking up ground that could be put to better use. The hope-filled gardener appeals to the owner to leave it for another year, during which time he will "dig round it and manure it." Just as the gardener is patient with the fig tree, so God is patient with us, and gives us many chances to bear fruit in our lives.

The challenge is not to waste the opportunities given to us. We must repent. Jesus warns the people: "Unless you repent, you will all perish." Repentance is a central demand of the Good News, and Jesus begins his mission to proclaim the Kingdom with: "Repent and believe the Good news." (Mk 1:15).

Repentance is not focussed on the past, but the future. It's a decision to turn away from where we are and move towards God. To turn away from the darkness in our lives and journey towards the light. To completely change our direction and joyously 'come home' to God. Repentance calls us to leave behind the past and all that has been, and to open our minds and hearts to the person God wants us to be. God's grace will bring us to newness of life.

Sadly, a reluctance to believe that God really loves us, no matter what we've done or where we've been in life, often hinders our willingness to repent and change direction. All too often, our understanding of God is engulfed by fear and anxiety, which trap and bind us from reaching out to God with faith, trust and confidence.

God never gives up on us. Instead, God continually reaches out to us, helping us to become the people that God yearns for us to be. Let's take heart this Lenten season, that God who is compassion and love, is waiting patiently for us, and will transform our repentant hearts, so that the vineyard of our lives will bear abundant fruit.

Damien Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Love and prayers from our parish to Nan Swan who has turned 102, earlier this month. Happy Birthday, Nan.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER Catholic Church Ballina PRESENTS

2025 PARISH MORNING of Reflection

9AM SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA

All parishioners are warmly invited to join this Parish event in preparation for Holy Week and Easter

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

ROSAARY
REFLECTIONS
ADORATION
RECONCILIATION
BENEDICTION

PARISH VOLUNTEERS WITH WWCC ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Training Invitation Ballina & Surrounding Parish

Tues 25th 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
NSW GOVERNMENT
The Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Training supports the NSW Child Safe Standards and the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Standards

ACSL
A safe Church for everyone

Safeguarding
Diocese of Lismore

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

SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Keith Donnelly** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass will be held **this Thursday 27th March** at 10.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church.

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

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass.

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

BISHOP GREG'S FINAL LENTEN TALK ~ THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE This Monday at 6.00 pm 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!**

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish promotes **SAFE-GUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our parish community.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15;*A reading from the book of Exodus*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth

so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)****Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

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

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 25th MARCH ~ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD****Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said, as he entered the world: Behold, I come to do your will, O God.**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.**WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH****Entrance Antiphon:** Let my steps be guided by your promise; may evil never rule me.**Communion Antiphon:** You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**THURSDAY 27th MARCH****Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.**Communion Antiphon:** You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**FRIDAY 28th MARCH****Entrance Antiphon:** Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, for you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God.**Communion Antiphon:** To love God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself, is worth more than any sacrifice.**Invest with peace of mind**

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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