

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 Advent (C)

15th 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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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 3rd Candle

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you bless us with every good gift

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you baptise us with water and the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus you are the bearer of Good News

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US



CHRISTMAS 2024 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Times

- 5.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
- 7.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

Christmas Day Mass Times

- 7.30am – Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
- 9.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
- 11.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina



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

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

CONNECT will be back in 2025.



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

4th Sunday Advent, Year C: 21st/22nd December, 2024
Readings: Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Peter Fear Mick Vella</i>	<i>Emma McFadden Marie Sullivan</i>	<i>Wendy Hughes Nicole Sullivan</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Trish Bazar Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Denise Miller</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Cathy Andrews Diana Evans</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Sandra Jones, Rodney Haydon,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Alane Atangana–Etundi, Una Smith, John Beglin, Peter Podgorczyk, Beatrice Flood
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'Fevre (*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, Aunty 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*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

17th Dec	Tuesday 10.00 am <i>Last for 2024</i>	'Cherry' Coffee <i>Resume 07/01/2025</i>
18th Dec <i>Last for 2024</i>	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
20th Dec	Friday 12.00 noon	Parish Anoint Mass

FRIENDS OF MARY'S PLACE
The winner of the raffle drawn on Sunday 1st December has been found.
The lucky winner is Brooke Ellis
'Congratulations'

PARISH PHOTOS
Photos taken on Sunday 1st December are available for viewing on the Parish website. Go to www.sfxballina.org.au > Noticeboard > Parish Social Gatherings > 2024 RCIA.
(Don't forget to refresh the page if you have difficulty viewing the newly placed photos).

FREE BALLINA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER
When : Christmas Day 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm
Where: St Mary's Anglican Church, Cnr of Norton & Burnet Streets.
Contact: 6686 2094
Dinner: Ham, turkey, salads & dessert
Don't be alone on Christmas Day – come and spend it with us.
This is an alcohol free event.



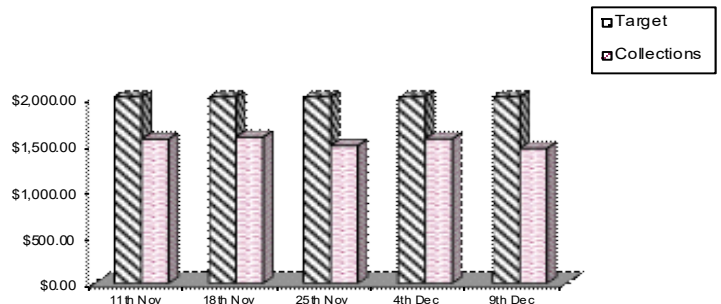
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 794.20
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 420.10
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,448.45
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



EXPERIENCING JOY THROUGH REPENTANCE

The two themes of Sunday’s readings are repentance and joy. We do not usually associate these two themes with each other, but they go hand in glove in the kingdom of God. The prophets of the Old Testament often spoke of what it would mean for God to live with his people. As we read in today’s first reading, it would mean the total flowering of love between God and humanity, the permanent establishment of justice and the overthrowing of everything that afflicts and enslaves people. In the words of the prophet Zephaniah, it will be a day for God’s people to “shout for joy” and “exult with all your heart”. However, this joyful uniting of God with his people requires our cooperation. A significant theme in the Old Testament is that God will only be actively present in the midst of a just and holy community. This is because to remain close to God is to become like him and for everything else to fall away. As a result, we have to prepare ourselves to be able to operate in God’s presence. For John the Baptist in today’s Gospel, the kind of spiritual labour involved in this preparation begins with repentance. Repentance for John starts with giving up those habits of ours where we get an advantage at the expense of others or where we live in a way contrary to God’s love and law. It may mean, as it did for the people in today’s Gospel, that we need to change

how we use our money, our relationships with others or how we go about our jobs and careers. However, repentance is not a process that should cause us anxiety. When we are moved to repentance, we know that we do so with God’s accompaniment and patience. As Paul says, through prayer, we can invite God into every area of our lives, even those places where we are afraid to let God have control. When we turn towards God in repentance, we do not find condemnation or judgement but the peace and joy that come from living in lockstep with Christ. This is why the coming of Christ, celebrated at Christmas, is celebrated with such rejoicing. God has come to live among his people and, where there was separation due to sin, God can make the repentant heart both whole and holy. And our joy is assured because, when we do turn back to God, we are responding to the great love and joy that God has called us with. Zephaniah depicts the moment of God coming to live among his people as God “dancing with shouts of joy”. As it says elsewhere in the Gospel of Luke, there is great “joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.” Repentance, then, is nothing to fear but is instead the path to true joy. All it takes is listening to God’s daily invitation to turn back towards his way of living and start on the journey of a life lived with Christ.

Joseph Doyle © 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: THIS 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 VINCENT DE PAUL BALLINA
Sacred Gifts and Religious Items Available
for purchase from the Piety Shop following
9.00 am Sunday Mass.**



Looking for a meaningful gift or a sacred item for your home? In the Church there is a selection of beautiful crosses, religious icons, rosaries, and other faith-inspired items for sale. Each item has been thoughtfully chosen to help inspire and deepen your faith or bring comfort and blessing to a loved one.

Highlights of our available items:

- **Handcrafted Crosses** – Choose from a variety of styles and sizes, perfect for any space in your home.
- **Rosaries** – Available in different materials and colors, each rosary is a beautiful aid for prayer.
- **Religious Medals & Icons** – Honor your favorite saints or gift these meaningful pieces to friends and family.

All proceeds directly support our parish ministries and outreach programs.

Visit the display after Mass this Sunday to explore these items and find the perfect addition to your home or gift for a loved one. Thank you for your support!

Large wooden crosses \$15. Small ‘holding’ crosses \$5.

READERS & EOMHC : If you are available to assist with our Christmas Day Masses please add your name to the roster sheet at the back of the Church. Thank you. Your assistance will be appreciated.

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

<p>5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Readers Bryan Marriott & John Jarzynski EMOHC Phil Chapman ~ Pauline Fingleton ~ Mick Vella</p> <p>7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Readers Maxine Cole & Trish Bazar EMOHC Peter Bowen ~ Phil Chapman</p>
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<p>9.00 am Mass Christmas Day Readers Bill Duffy & Gemma Duffy EMOHC NEEDED</p> <p>.....</p> <p>11.00 am Mass Christmas Day READERS NEEDED 1st..... 2nd.....</p> <p>EMOHC Maxine Cole</p>
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SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided. Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18;*A reading from the prophet Zephaniah*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
 Israel, shout aloud!
 Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
 daughter of Jerusalem!
 The Lord has repealed your sentence;
 he has driven your enemies away.
 The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
 you have no more evil to fear.
 When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
 Zion, have no fear,
 do not let your hands fall limp.
 The Lord your God is in your midst,
 a victorious warrior.
 He will exult with joy over you,
 he will renew you by his love;
 he will dance with shouts of joy for you
 as on a day of festival.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:
 for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
 I trust, I shall not fear.
 For the Lord is my strength, my song,
 he became my saviour.
 With joy you will draw water
 from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
 Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
 for he has done glorious deeds,
 make them known to all the earth!
 People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 3:10-18***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER****Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.**WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER****Entrance Antiphon:** Christ our King is coming, he is the Lamb foretold by John.**Communion Antiphon:** His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.**THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER****Entrance Antiphon:** He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land, for he is our Saviour.**Communion Antiphon:** The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.**FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER****Entrance Antiphon:** A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.**Communion Antiphon:** The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.**DID YOU KNOW:**

- The Jewish people of this time were hopeful that a Messiah would come to overthrow the tyranny of the Roman Empire and set them free
- The word *Messiah* in Hebrew means 'anointed one'; the word *Christ* has exactly the same meaning in Greek.

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

- Today's entrance antiphon is a lovely prayer for this week:

*The Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory
 of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

**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.