

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.**

4th Sunday of Lent C

30th 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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We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES



DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NEXT WEEKEND SUNDAY 6TH APRIL
 Remember to turn your clocks **back** 1 hour



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

Jack Roland Carr son of Jeffrey and Rolebeth;
Erik Felix Amundsen Fahey son of Alan and Renee;
Lilah Sage Greyling daughter of Pieter and Natalie;
Stella Jean and Esther Edith Wailes daughters of Andrew and Emily;
Mia Scout, Millie Margaret and Neve Charlotte Downing daughters of Charles and Sarah.

2025 PARISH MORNING of Reflection
 9AM SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH
 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

PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, **NEXT Sunday 6th April**, following the 9.00 am Mass and the 11.00 am Mass. *Everyone is very welcome.*

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

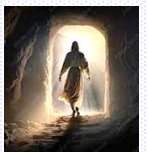
The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. **\$2.00 a copy**

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**

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

5th Sunday of Lent, Year C: 5th/6th April, 2025
Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 125; Phiippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Yvonne Head Kristie Coster</i>	<i>Emma McFadden Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Wendy Hughes</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Gemma Duffy</i>
EMOHC	<i>Jeanette Wilkins Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Oanh Hoang Letran Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Sharon-Lee McNiff Parkes, Peter O'Connor, Father Charles Kakumanu, Father Steven O'Donnell, Don King

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: Sr Mary McFadden PBVM, 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'Fevé (*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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

31st March	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
31st March	Monday 5.30 pm <i>MTR Admin Centre</i>	Bible Study Gospel of St John
31st March	Monday 2.30—3.30 pm	Lenten Reflection <i>MTR Admin Centre</i>
1st April	Tuesday 10.00 am <i>Lennox Head</i>	Devotion to the Holy Face,
1st April	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
2nd April	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
2nd April	Wednesday 9.00—10.00 am	Lenten Reflection <i>MTR Admin Centre</i>
3rd April	Thursday 9.30 am	World Day of Prayer
3rd April	Thursday 2.00 pm	'The Chosen' <i>St Teresa Room</i>
4th April	Friday 9.30 am	Bible Study Gospel of St John
4th April	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

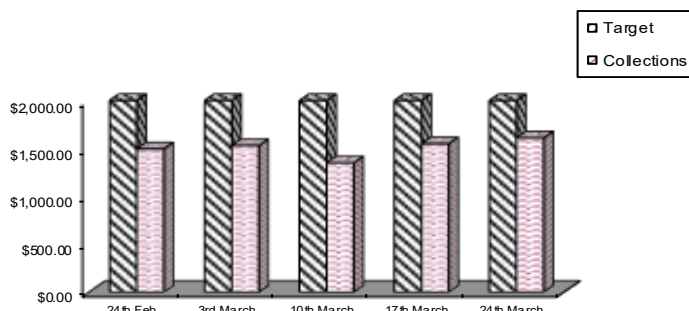
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterian collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 643.80
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 307.60
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,610.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



TO LOVE EQUALLY

The parable in this week's gospel tells us about the experience of being loved. It is about a father who shares his love equally with both his sons and as they mature into adulthood, he gives them space to make their own decisions.

But the younger son decides he wants to have his own life and so he moves away and becomes disconnected from his father and brother. The oldest son, however, decides to remain loyal and to serve his father. But one day after arriving home after a day working in the fields, he becomes angry after seeing his father embrace his younger brother who has returned home.

It seems unbelievable that his father would welcome the younger sibling because he turned his back on his father and the family home. However, this is where we witness God's mercy which goes beyond our human thoughts and standards. Seeing his younger son coming towards him, his father runs to him, welcoming and hugging him with tremendous joy and love. To his relief, the younger son finds his father is still the same loving and merciful man.

His father can't hide his joy so he throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The younger son feels even more loved by his father than before he left the family property. The oldest son is invited to join the celebrations but refuses and complains that he has served his father loyally all his life but has never been treated like a king. Why would the younger brother be treated like a king when he turned his back on his father? It doesn't make sense!

At this moment he doesn't feel loved even though he experienced his father's care all his life. Both sons at different times fail to see the deepest generosity of their father's heart. The father knows that if they are away and lose contact with him, they will die. They will have no life. The younger son experienced this scenario which is why his father is so happy when he returns. The elder son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, already has a wonderful life with his father but fails to see this.

Likewise, we are all safe in God's house who loves us so much we have the freedom to make our own decisions. Coming home is really a journey of love. It takes a lot of courage as the younger son showed. The parable also reveals that staying with the father can provide great joy and the fullness of life.

God the Father never changes his love for us. He is always waiting for us. Let us make the move and go back home to renew our relationship with God the Father, in order to experience his unconditional love and mercy, and be ready to share God's life with others, especially with the wounded ones.

Redempt Jawa CSsR © Majellan Media 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th of March 2025



Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

Please donate today.

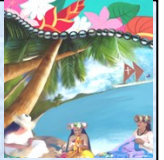
You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
COOK ISLANDS**
'I made you wonderful'
THIS THURSDAY 3RD APRIL, 2025
**9.30 am St Francis Xavier Church,
Cherry Street, Ballina**



*followed by morning tea, parishioners attending please bring a plate for morning.
Everyone is very welcome.*



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. Thank you for your kindness in helping us serve our community.

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

READERS ROSTER : PALM SUNDAY, TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2025

	Palm Sunday 5.30 pm Vigil	Palm Sunday 9.00 am	Holy Thursday 6.00 pm	Good Friday 3.00 pm	Holy Saturday 6.00pm Vigil	Easter Sunday 9.00 am
Readers	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Gary Reen Annette Reen	Marie Sullivan Richard Goss	Nicole Sullivan Pauline Fingleton	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Richard Goss Margaret Tay
	Passion Bryan Marriott Narrator John Jarzynski Crowd/other Jesus—Priest	Passion Richard Goss Narrator Nicole Sullivan Crowd/other Jesus—Priest		The Passion Trish Bazar Narrator Leanne Robbins Crowd/other Jesus—Priest	Mick Vella Maxine Cole Epistle	
EMOHC	Katrina Miles Phil Chapman	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Kailani Tiernan Phil Chapman	Mick Vella Phil Chapman	Peter Bowen Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell
Readers		11.00 am Brendon Clark Maurice Gahan				11.00 am Clare McKendry Mary McKendry
		Passion Tony Hunter Narrator Maxine Cole Crowd/other Jesus—Priest Cheryl Bowen				
EMOHC						Kailani Tiernan

First Reading: Joshua 25:9-12;*A reading from the book of Joshua*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES
TUESDAY 1st APRIL****Entrance Antiphon:** All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy.**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.**WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL****Entrance Antiphon:** I pray to you, O Lord, for a time of your favour. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, with your salvation that never fails.**Communion Antiphon:** God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**THURSDAY 3rd APRIL****Entrance Antiphon:** Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.**Communion Antiphon:** I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, says the Lord.**FRIDAY 4th APRIL****Entrance Antiphon:** O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.**Communion Antiphon:** In Christ, we have redemption by his Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of his grace.