

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.**

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

23rd February, 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 Day
St Gregory of Narek
Thursday



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:
Benjamin Maverick and Calypso White
 children of Michael and Paola.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM
 The Annual General Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on
THIS Monday 24th February 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 2nd March, following the 9.00 am Mass.
 On Sunday 2nd March morning tea will also be enjoyed following
 the 11.00 am Mass. This will take place on the 1st Sunday of every month.
Everyone is very welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ~ COOK ISLAND
'I made you wonderful'
FRIDAY 7th MARCH, 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.



ASH WEDNESDAY
5th MARCH,
MASS TIMES
 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
 Stations of the Cross will take place *each Friday during Lent* at 5.30 pm in St Francis Xavier Church, commencing Friday 7th March.



2025 LENTEN PROGRAM 'START ANEW IN CHRIST'
 The Lenten program will begin Monday 3rd March 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm and Wednesday 5th March 9.00–10.00 am. Please contact the parish office to register and join a group.
 Ph 6681 1048 or e: admin@sfxballina.org.au
 Reflection books are now available from the Parish Office \$6.50



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

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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 1st/2nd March 2025
Readings: Sirach 27:4-7; Psalm 91; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>John Jarzynski Pauline Fingleton</i>	<i>Damien Kennedy Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Richard Goss</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Mick Vella Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Pam Hanson & Gerry Taylor</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gordan Albany (*Sydney*), Graham Smith (*Coraki*), Michael Lyons (*Sydney*),

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Sr Antoinette Walsh, Gurrino Gardiman

AND ALSO FOR: *Ron, Aileen and Greg Thomas, Jim Walsh, Boleslaw Jarzynski, 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: 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'Feve (*London*), Jackie Wotton, 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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

24th February	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary AGM
25th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
25th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face, Lennox Head
27th February	Thursday 2.00 pm	'The Chosen' St Teresa Room Parish Admin
2nd March	Sunday 9.45 am & 11.40 am	Parish cuppa
3rd & 5th March	Monday 2.30-3.30 pm Wed 9.00 - 10.00am	Lenten Progame St Teresa Room Parish Admin
5th March	Wednesday Mass 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm	Ash Wednesday SFX Church Ballina
5th March	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
7th March	Friday 9.30 am SFX Church Ballina	World Day of Prayer
7th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross

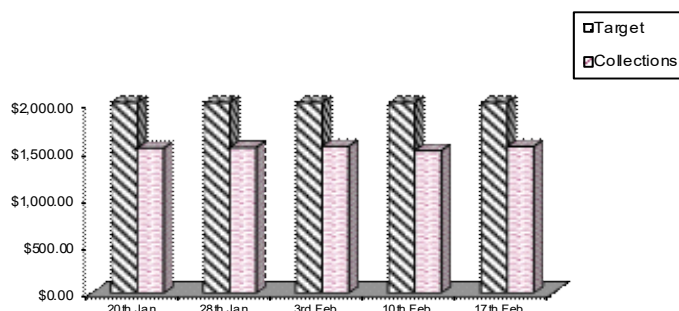
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 691.45
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 351.35
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,539.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH LOVE

In the Book of Samuel, we find two mortal enemies, David and Saul, in conflict. Saul is the anointed King of Judah and David has been anointed to succeed him. What happens next is an all too familiar human story. David is jealous of Saul's power; Saul is suspicious of David's motives.

How often family feuds and human relations take on these negative forces of jealousy and suspicion, resulting in the breakdown of relationships. We also see this operating at the international level between ethnic groups and nations, resulting in open conflict and even warfare.

To return to the story of King Saul and the yet-to-be appointed King David, there is a glimmer of light. Previously, in a rage, Saul had attempted to kill David by throwing a javelin at him! In this week's story, David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but relents. Choosing not to kill your enemy is a good first step! Even here we note David's motives are not entirely pure. He acts partly out of guilt, fearing divine anger if he was to kill one of God's anointed.

However, fear of God has its role as a pathway to a more authentic and loving life.

Let us now compare this approach to the words of Jesus in the gospel: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you". At a logical level, Jesus' reasoning is difficult to dispute: "If you only love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?" No, says Jesus, you must overcome all those narrow views of love and forgiveness: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate". Moreover, "don't judge others, don't condemn, always forgive".

We may complain that Jesus is asking too much of us! Surely all this love and forgiveness will be seen as pure weakness, leading us to being eaten up, spewed out and trodden underfoot by our enemies! Yet, something within us knows we must break the cycle of violence and vengeance if we are to achieve peace, harmony and goodwill among people and nations. This is the way of the gospel as lived and proclaimed by Jesus.

This is also the centre-point of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), where Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to insist that love must go beyond tribe, family and nation to include stranger, migrant and refugee. We also note Francis' joint statement with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi (2019) which acknowledged that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".

In today's world, 'loving your enemy' is best expressed in terms of commitment to dialogue and mutual respect among peoples of diverse religions and cultures. This enables us to open our hearts to become people of love, service and compassion. This way, we allow God's love to enter our lives and world, mindful of Jesus' words: "The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back!"

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact the Parish Administration Office at 6681 1048



Music Ministry:
at the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass



Mass Readers:
at the 11:00am Sunday Mass



Powerpoint Operators:
at the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
& the 9:00am Sunday Mass

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

ASPIRE ~ Young Adults Spiritual Formation with Bishop Greg, for those aged 18-35 years. **Thursday 6th March 5.30 to 6.30 pm** zoom login: 299 665 7662. For further information contact Sr Di, CM 0405327153 Email youth@lismore.catholic.org.au



BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALK THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Mondays at 6.00 pm from
10th, 17th, and 24th March.

St Mary's Chapel, Cathedral Grounds:

It will be available to view on the YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU>

The CHOSEN

The life and times of
Jesus is coming to
our parish!

Starting from Season 1

2.00 pm Saint Teresa Room Parish Admin Building

Thurs 27 March | Join us!

The Catholic Weekly

Available from 2 March after Mass for \$2

- Contains news with a Catholic lens
- Helps you to stay informed and make judgements in accordance with our faith
- Provides insightful articles, news and editorials on matters central to our faith

Please support
Catholic journalism



FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS 4th March, 2025 (Shrove Tuesday)

Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus to begin this Sunday 23rd February. The novena can be obtained on the internet by searching 'Nine day Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus'. There are hard copies of the Novena available from the Holy Family Church, Lennox Head. On line reference is available at www.holyface.com and <http://www.catholictradition.org/Christ/Vernonica4.htm> All Welcome



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.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23;*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

*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 is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

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

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 6:27-38***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 25th ~ WEDNESDAY 26th ~ THURSDAY 27th ~ FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY**

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048.

Taizé: Every second Monday SFX Church from 12.00 noon.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday.

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am Ballina .

CCR: Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029.

Marian Cenacle: Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.

Parish Youth Group: 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Upper Room Parish Admin Building **Sunday evenings.**

Ladies Rosary: 1st Tuesday of the month 1.30 pm

phn Pauline 0438435 566

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.



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.