

# 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.**

### 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

**2nd 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**  
**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**

**Ash Wednesday**  
 Wednesday

**Mass Times :**  
 12.00 noon &  
 5.30 pm

**Autumn Ember Day**  
 Friday

**Sts Perpetua and Felicity**  
 Friday

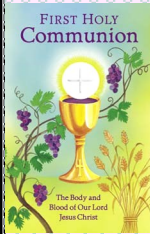
We invite everyone to our faith community.

#### PARISH NOTICES



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

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



**'CONGRATUALTIONS'**  
**Andrew Broadley** who was received into fullness of Communion with the Catholic Church last Sunday at Holy Family Catholic Church Lennox Head.

**'CONGRATULATIONS'**  
**Celeste Dalby** receiving her First Holy Communion this Sunday.  
 Love and prayers to you both from your parish community.



**2025 LENTEN PROGRAM 'START ANEW IN CHRIST'**  
 The Lenten program will begin **THIS 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](mailto:admin@sfxballina.org.au)  
 Reflection books are now available from the Parish Office \$6.50 each.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ~ COOK ISLANDS**  
*'I made you wonderful'*  
**THIS 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 tea. Thank you.

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

**TAIZÉ MONDAY 3RD MARCH 12.00 NOON SFX CHURCH**  
*Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation through Meditation, Music and Silence*

**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](mailto:ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au)  
 Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; Email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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

**1st Sunday of Lent, Year C: 8th/9th March 2025**  
**Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 ; Psalm 90; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13**

	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Trish Bazar Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Courtney Hyde Mark McDonald</i>	<i>Wendy Hughes Gary Reen</i>	<i>Maxine Cole John Jarzynski</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Peter Bowen .....</i>	.....	<i>Deacon Anthony Annette Reen Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			.....	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

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

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** *Mary Grant, Paddy Grant, Sonbacchi Vincen, Michael Kearney, Fay Herrick*

**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 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'Feve (*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

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025**

<b>3rd March</b>	<b>Monday 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation &amp; music</b>
<b>3rd &amp; 5th March</b>	<b>Monday 2.30-3.30 pm Wed 9.00 - 10.00am</b>	<b>Lenten Progame St Teresa Room Parish Admin</b>
<b>4th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>4th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>Devotion to the Holy Face, Lennox Head</b>
<b>5th March</b>	<b>Wednesday 8.00 am</b>	<b>menAlive Lennox Head</b>
<b>5th March</b>	<b>Wednesday Mass 12.00 noon &amp; 5.30 pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday SFX Church Ballina</b>
<b>6th March</b>	<b>Thursday 2.00 pm</b>	<b>'The Chosen' St Teresa Room</b>
<b>7th March</b>	<b>Friday 9.30 am SFX Church</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>
<b>7th March</b>	<b>Friday 5.30 pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>25th March</b>	<b>Tuesday 9.30 am to 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Safeguarding Training Upper Room</b>

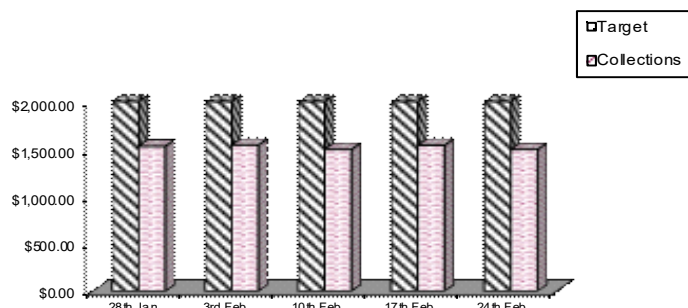
**THANK YOU to all Parishioners** for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father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

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 759.00
<b>Second Collection</b>	Loose Plate	\$ 420.00
<i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,494.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00





## THE SPOTLIGHT ON OUR OWN HEARTS

This week's first reading offers the kind of pithy advice that would have been common in the ancient world. In this case, the author of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus as also called, encourages the reader to test the words and actions of others. This way, we avoid looking foolish for endorsing someone with egregious character flaws.

This is good advice and, at first glance, in the gospel reading it seems that Jesus is encouraging his disciples to do the same. He even uses the same visual metaphors of examining the fruit (words and actions) to determine the true quality of a tree (the inner character of a person).

Jesus agrees that a person reveals their inner spiritual state through their words and actions. However, he spins this advice around towards the people he is addressing. Instead of measuring the character of *others* by interrogating *their* thoughts and actions, Jesus is pointing us towards *our own capacity for self-deception*.

Jesus immediately turns the spotlight on our own hearts. He exposes how our attempts to justify our own selfish desires as morally good do as much good as trying to pick grapes from brambles.

However, because it requires us to thoroughly examine and change our own hearts and minds, we often try to look for other ways to make ourselves seem and feel good. When we do this, we demonstrate in the way that we live that we follow a teacher other than Christ. But, as Jesus explains, there is only one teacher who has conclusively proved, by the fruits of his words and actions, the goodness of his character and teaching. This is why St Paul exhorts us in the second reading to remember that Jesus has won the victory that will make us capable of living God's way.

God works through our humble hearts when we acknowledge how much we need the truth and love that Christ alone brings, and labour to change ourselves accordingly. In this way, we become like the "fully trained disciple" Jesus describes who can fully emulate "his teacher."

What we experience in the day-to-day journey of following Jesus, with the thousands of little corrections that we need to make to stay on course, is God transforming us into the image of his Son.

This work of transformation in this life will be completed in the life to come. St Paul, in the second reading, shows us a glimpse of the kind of people that we will be when our "perishable natures" will "put on imperishability" and our "mortal nature" will "put on immortality".

St Paul exhorts us to keep going with the spiritual introspection and labour that will turn us from brambles into fruitful trees where, in the words of the Psalm, we will "flourish in the courts of our God".

Joseph Doyle © Majellan Media 2025

### Project Compassion Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing



support to vulnerable communities in need.

**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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



**ASPIRE ~ Young Adults Spiritual Formation with Bishop Greg, for those aged 18-35 years. THIS 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](mailto:youth@lismore.catholic.org.au)

**Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March:** Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

#### 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.*



DIocese OF LISMORE

## Training Invitation Ballina & Surrounding Parish

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> 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



The Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Training supports the NSW Child Safety Standards and the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Standards



A safe Church for everyone



#### RSVP:

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

## The CHOSEN

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

**Thurs 6 March**

**Join us!**

Starting from Season 1

2 pm, St Teresa Room, Admin Building  
Pauline: 0438 435 566



**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.

**NEW PARISHIONER** If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, *we welcome you to our faith community.* Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the collection plate or contact the parish office 6681 1048. *We look forward to meeting you.*

**First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7;***A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
 so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.  
 The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
 the test of a man is in his conversation.  
 The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the  
 quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray  
 what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,  
 since this is the test of men.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
 to make music to your name, O Most High,  
 to proclaim your love in the morning  
 and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
 and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord  
 they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
 still bearing fruit when they are old,  
 still full of sap, still green,  
 to proclaim that the Lord is just.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and  
 when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the  
 words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in  
 victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your  
 sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power

from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory  
 through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat;  
 keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in  
 the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

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

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
 you are offering it the word of life.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Luke 6:39-45***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man  
 guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is  
 not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will al-  
 ways be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in  
 your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own?  
 How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out  
 the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the  
 plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your  
 own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take  
 out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again  
 a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be  
 told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor  
 gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is  
 good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man  
 draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's  
 words flow out of what fills his heart.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 4th MARCH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
 he saved me because he delighted in me.

**Communion Antiphon:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the  
 Lord Most High

**WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH ~ ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made.

You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

**Communion Antiphon:** He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

**THURSDAY 6TH MARCH**

**Entrance Antiphon:** When I cried to the Lord, he heard my voice; he rescued me from those who attack me.

Entrust your cares to the Lord, and he will support you.

**Communion Antiphon:** Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Parables are often used by Jesus as a teaching tool. They are generally brief stories with a double meaning, and we should read them for their metaphorical interpretation rather than their literal meaning.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

- What fills your heart?
- Try not to judge others for what you may see as their shortcomings.
- You could use today's communion antiphon as your prayer this week:

*I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful to me,  
 sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.*



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516



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