

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.**

AUSTRALIA DAY (C)



26th January, 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 Days

St Thomas Aquinas
Tuesday
St John Bosco
Friday

We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: Lily Lee and William Daniel Lindquist children of Daniel and Tracy.



PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, NEXT Sunday 2nd February, following the 9.00 am Mass. Our first for 2025, please come together and share in friendship with your parish community. *Everyone is very welcome.*

CATECHISTS: A Catechist meeting will be held Friday 7th February at 10.30 am in the Upper Room, Parish Admin building to plan for the new year. If you are an existing catechist or considering to be a helper you are most welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided.

TAIZÉ WILL RECOMMENCE FOR 2025 MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 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
Devotion will recommence on **Tuesday 4th February 2025**, at 10.00 am Holy Family Church Lennox Head.

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John (8 video sessions)

- Invitation to the joy of divine friendship.
- Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer.
- He wants you to be his disciple and friend.



Monday evenings (5:30-7:00) starting February 10th

OR Friday mornings (9:30-11:00) starting February 14th

Please register at the parish office (6681 1048) or phone Maxine (0429 669 029).

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE: Lap top operators are required for our 5.30 pm Vigil Mass and 9.00 am Sunday Mass. **Catechists** are required for the new school year. **Please consider.** Contact the Parish Administration Office 6681 1048.

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

4th Presentation of the Lord, Year C: 1st/2nd February 2025
Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 23; Hebrews 2:14-18-; Luke 2:22-32



	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Kristie Coster Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Marie Sullivan Michael Piccoli</i>	<i>Gary Reen Annette Reen</i>	<i>Maxine Cole Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Katrina Miles Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Cathy Campbell.</i>	<i>Cheryl Bowen</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Greg, Katie & family</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Noela Barnier (*Grafton, mother of Steve*), Mary Jill Deepes, Robyn Hancock, Dawn McLellan,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Littorio Kenk, Nola Rodey, Joan Woolbank, Angela Crowley, Tom Crowley, Brian Harris, Michael Timmins, Sharon-Lee McNiff Parkes, Kathleen Hicks,
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: Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, 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'Feve (*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, 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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

28th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
2nd February	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa in the Church grounds
3rd February	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation & music
4th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face, Lennox Head
5th February	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
5th February	Wednesday 9.30 am	Office of the Children's Guardian Training Day Upper Room Parish Admin
		
8th February	Saturday 7.30 am—9.30 am	Catholic Men's Breakfast
10th February 14th Feb	Monday 5.30 pm MTR Parish Admin Friday 9.30 am	Bible Study Gospel of John
5th March	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
7th March	Friday	World Day of Prayer

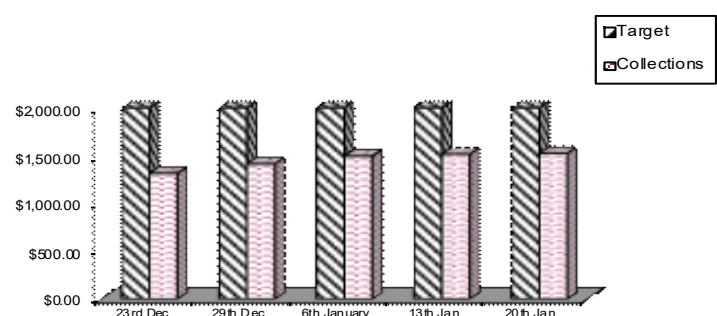
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 624.45
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 295.30
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,521.35
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



IT IS ALL ABOUT TODAY

Returning home after more than eleven years 'on mission' overseas has been a challenging and confronting experience. So much has changed. I've changed. Society has changed. The Church has changed. So much is unfamiliar to me and I'm 'unknown'. I feel like a foreigner in the country I call home.

Luke portrays something similar in the gospel. After being away, Jesus has returned home for a visit. Some people will remember him growing up in Nazareth. Others will know his parents. Others may have benefitted from his carpentry skills. Others may be curious or uncertain about why he's returned. Others may treat him with suspicion if he's unknown to them. He's not some 'local lad' who's come home after travelling or working away. He has a reputation and it's gone ahead of him. He's somewhat of a 'celebrity'. Will he live up to his reputation? Will he be as wise as they've heard? Will he say or do something special in his home town? Will he challenge them to live differently and change their way of life? As expected, Jesus goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath, where he would have spent time as a boy and young man. He's handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and he reads: *"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."*

Jesus then says something that disturbs and challenges those who are gathered: *"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."* Surely he's not suggesting that *he* is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy? The people were expecting the Messiah sometime in the future. They can't believe that the time is now. The Messiah is there in their midst! Naturally, they can't comprehend what's just unfolded in their presence. In time, they will want him to prove his prophetic words through special deeds and miraculous signs.

"Today" has really disturbed them. Jesus says nothing about the future. Rather, he claims that he has the power to transform the present. Good times are not some future dream. They are here now, and the Kingdom of God is among them. Today is what counts. Today grace abounds. Today the kingdom is realised. Today God is revealed. "Today" is the very reason that this gospel challenged the people of Jesus' home town, and it challenges us to be open to the life of Christ here and now, and to live our lives to the full. The fulfilment of God's promise *today* is important for us to understand and embrace, so that we'll not miss the grace of God's saving action in the simple, ordinary and everyday experiences and encounters of our lives.

David J Hore CSSR © Majellan Media 2025

BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

You're invited!

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CATHOLIC MEN'S PARISH BREAKFAST
A MORNING OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND GOOD FOOD.**

DATE: SATURDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM
VENUE: BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, 419 HINTERLAND WAY, KNOCKROW
COST: \$20 PER HEAD (TO BE PAID TO THE SFX BALLINA ADMIN OFFICE)

Enjoy a breakfast menu of fresh fruit salad & yoghurt, bacon and egg breakfast roll with your choice of coffee, tea, or juice

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parish members in a relaxed and inspiring setting. Feel free to invite friends or family members who would enjoy this meaningful gathering.

**RSVP by 1st February to confirm your spot.
We look forward to sharing this special morning with you!**

**SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY
7:30AM-9:30AM**

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
BALLINA - LENNOX HEAD PARISH**

PLEASE NOTE: All parish volunteers with WWCC are encouraged to attend this training day; please call the Parish office to register your attendance. 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY Monday 27th January, the Parish Office will be closed. We will reopen on Tuesday 28th January at 8.30 am. If you urgently require a priest please call 0423 445 639

NSW GOVERNMENT | **Office of the Children's Guardian**

free TRAINING

A Safeguarding Workshop

PRESENTED BY CRAIG THACKER
CHILD SAFE TRAINING OFFICER

February 5, 2025
In person
9:30 AM - 1 PM

St Francis Xavier
Catholic Parish
Ballina

Register now!

**Reporting Obligations and Processes
9:30am - 11:00am**

**Empowerment and Participation
11:30am - 1:00pm**

Tea, Coffee and a Light Lunch will be provided

CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM

The Annual General Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on **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.

Love and prayers from our Parish to Dympna Sheehy who will be celebrating her 101st Birthday. 'Happy Birthday', Dympna.

Safeguarding

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.

Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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 DIF 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.

First Reading: Isaiah 32:15-18;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Once more there will be poured on us
the spirit from above;
then shall the wilderness be fertile land
and fertile land become forest.
In the wilderness justice will come to live
and integrity in the fertile land;
integrity will bring peace,
justice give lasting security.
My people will live in a peaceful home,
in safe houses,
in quiet dwellings.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 12:9-13;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need

you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

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

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 12:2-32***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. For life means more than food, and the body more than clothing. Think of the ravens. They do not sow or reap; they have no storehouses and no barns; yet God feeds them. And how much more are you worth than the birds! Can any of you, for all his worrying, add a single cubit to his span of life? If the smallest things, therefore, are outside your control, why worry about the rest? Think of the flowers; they never have to spin or weave; yet, I assure you, not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he look after you, you men of little faith! But you, you must not set your hearts on things to eat and things to drink; nor must you worry. It is the pagans of this world who set their hearts on these things. Your Father well knows you need them. No; set your hearts on his kingdom, and these other things will be given you as well. 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.'

The Gospel of the Lord**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 28th JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST THOMAS AQUINAS****Entrance Antiphon:** Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy.**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen, I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all his property.**WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY AND THURSDAY 30th JANUARY****Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**FRIDAY 31st JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST JOHN BOSCO****Entrance Antiphon:** Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen, I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all his property.**PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA**

'God of Australia ..

We bring you our gratitude
for the diversity and wealth
of this land and its people;
for its weathered old mountains, fertile valleys,
and vast plains;
for its riches of mine and agriculture,
forest, and grazing lands;
for the first Australians, who know and love this continent with an intimate, profound sensitivity;
for the courage, vision and sacrifice of the early settlers;
for the diverse races who now call Australia home:
For these and all your gifts
we offer you, O Lord, our joyful, thankful hearts. Amen.'

