

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.**

The Baptism of Our Lord (C)

12th 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 Day
St Anthony, abbot
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: **James Luca Butler** son of Simon and Kara; **Lachlan James** and **Isla Winter Stewart** children of Nathan and Jodie.

SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Dawn McLellan** who has sadly passed away. A Funeral Prayer service will be held **this** Tuesday 14th January at 10.30 am in St Francis Xavier Church.



CATECHISTS MATTER

URGENT! Volunteers NEEDED for 2025

An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.



Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools? Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.



VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!!

HELP OUR PARISH ILLUMINATE THE WORD.

The laptop projection helps guide our prayer, hymns and participation by displaying our Mass responses and the words of hymns.

Please consider volunteering to help operate the laptop computer during our weekend Masses.

The only requirement is a willingness to serve on a roster once a month at a weekend Mass of your preference. No experience required, training and support given.

This small act of service can make a big difference.

To volunteer or learn more please contact the parish office 6681 1048 or speak with the laptop operator after Mass. Thank you.

PRAYING THE ROSARY : FROM TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Ladies of our parish are invited to pray the Rosary on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea. Please phone Pauline on 0438 435 566 for further details.

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time , Year C: 18th/19th January 2025
Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Trish Bazar John Jarzynski</i>	<i>Marie Sullivan Michael Piccoli</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Annette Reen</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan Richard Goss</i>
EMOHC	<i>Mick Vella Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Gary Reen Cathy Campbell.</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Cathy Andrews Diana Evans</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Robyn Hancock, (*daughter of Kathy Fraser*), Dawn McLellan, Alf Bugden,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Mick Ronan, Joan Flew, Cardinal George Pell, Hortense Dunn, Marie Rogers, John Joseph Moreland

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: 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'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*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

14th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
27th January	Monday	Australia Day Public Holiday
2nd February	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa in the Church grounds
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
 5th March	 Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
7th March	Friday	World Day of Prayer

SAVE THE DATE ~ CATHOLIC MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Invitation to all St Francis Xavier parish men to attend. Further information to follow.

**Contact: Murray ~ 0414 399 658
Richard ~ 0418 356 527**

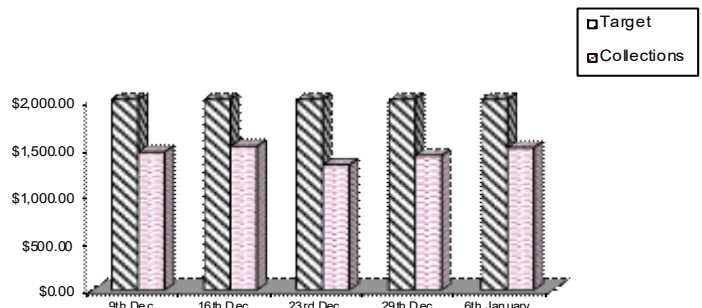
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 796.20
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 436.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,495.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



BEING ZEALOUS FOR GOOD DEEDS

After our joyful celebration of the feast of Christmas, followed by the feasts of the Holy Family and, last week, the Epiphany, we come to the end of the Christmas season. We now enter what we call Ordinary Time and, on its first Sunday, we have the Baptism of Our Lord.

Following on from last week's Feast of the Epiphany, the gospel reading for the Baptism of Our Lord offers an even more vivid manifestation, another epiphany, revealing the identity of Jesus: "this is my beloved Son."

In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah consoles the people of Israel, then in exile in the desert, reminding them of God's promises, telling them "prepare the way of the Lord" and assuring them that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed ... the Lord is coming with power."

The Responsorial Psalm then proclaims, "You send forth your spirit ... and you renew the face of the earth."

Today's reading from Luke's gospel shows the realisation of these promises.

In preparation for the Lord's coming, John the Baptist had been preaching repentance for sin and a baptism of repentance in the waters of the River Jordan. So powerful was his preaching that many wondered if indeed John was the Christ, the One who was to come.

But John vehemently denied it, insisting that he was not even worthy to touch Christ's sandal, and that, while he baptises with water, the coming one, "someone who is more powerful," will baptise "with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

On the brink of his public ministry, Jesus, about thirty years old, emerges from the crowd and comes to John the Baptist for baptism. John, recognising that Jesus is the One, at first resists Jesus' request, but then agrees and baptises Jesus.

An extraordinary epiphany then follows. While Jesus is at prayer after his baptism by John, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily shape, like a dove, and a voice from heaven was heard, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The dove reminds us of the story of creation when God's spirit was described as hovering over the waters like a dove and of the story of Noah and the flood when the dove proclaimed a new beginning, a new era.

The words of the Father reveal Jesus' unique relationship to the Father, a relationship of sonship: he is the Beloved Son. It is no accident that this Feast of Our Lord's Baptism opens Ordinary Time, because it reminds us of our identity as daughters and sons of God, granted through the grace of our baptism.

Through our baptism, we enter into the family and hospitality of God. Our second reading reminds us that, as members of that family, we are called to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, to give up everything that does not lead to God, and to be a people who are zealous for good deeds.

Ann Hunt © Majellan Media 2025

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

Meeting and Dinner ~ Wednesday
5th February First Wednesday of each month
CATENIANS Fellowship 6.15pm – St Joseph's Staff room, Alstonville. **Meeting** 6:30pm – St Joseph's Staff room, Alstonville. **Dinner** 7:00pm – The Federal Hotel, Alstonville
A network of Catholic men who catch up regularly for dinner and friendship.
 For more information or to RSVP call or email Kurt Challinor kurt.challinor@lism.catholic.edu.au 0417661057



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would like to be involved in our weekend Masses, assisting with the Offertory procession, Mass laptop operator, or being a 'welcomer' and handing out the parish bulletin, please advise the Parish Office. Perhaps you might like to help when we have our "Parish Morning teas" once a month or be a part of the music ministry. Your assistance in any of these activities will be greatly appreciated.

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS
 Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus is in recess. Devotion will recommence on Tuesday 4th February 2025, at 10.00 am Holy Family Church Lennox Head.

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.

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.



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 CDFP 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 40:1-5,9-11;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Console my people, console them' says your God.
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are,
 clothed in majesty and glory,
 wrapped in light as in a robe!
 You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R.)**

2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
 You make the clouds your chariot,
 you walk on the wings of the wind,
 you make the winds your messengers
 and flashing fire your servants. **(R.)**

3. How many are your works, O Lord!
 In wisdom you have made them all.
 The earth is full of your riches.
 There is the sea, vast and wide,
 with its moving swarms past counting,
 living things great and small. **(R.)**

4. All of these look to you
 to give them their food in due season.
 You give it, they gather it up:
 you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R.)**

5. You take back your spirit, they die,
 returning to the dust from which they came.
 You send forth your spirit, they are created;
 and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

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

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
 he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 14th ~ WEDNESDAY 15th ~ THURSDAY 16th JANUARY**

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison:
 Behold him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Communion Antiphon: With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.

FRIDAY 17th JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST ANTHONY

Entrance Antiphon: The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Communion Antiphon: If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me, says the Lord.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The word *baptism* comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.
- The mainstream Christian churches—Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican—recognise the same baptism. If a person is baptised into one of these churches, it is not repeated, even if they move to worshipping in another church.
- Jesus is clearly attracted by the preaching of the Baptist and submits to his baptism of repentance. Scholars believe that Jesus may have spent some time as a disciple of John the Baptist before embarking on his own public ministry.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Each day this week, take some time alone to pray; listen to the voice from heaven. Use your own name and repeat:
...N..., you are my child, my beloved, my favour rests on you.