

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street,
Ballina.

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.

Christmas Year C

25th December, 2024



*As we celebrate
Christmas 2024
may you know in
your heart
the peace and joy
of Christ.*



We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

Dear Beloved Parish Family,

It is Christmas again—a season filled with wonder, hope, and the joyful reminder of God's boundless love for all humanity. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we are called to pause and reflect on the profound mystery of His coming among us: God made flesh, born into simplicity and humility, to bring us the gift of salvation.

Christmas is a time for rejoicing and an invitation to encounter Christ anew in our hearts and the world around us. It reminds us to share His light and love, especially with those who are lonely, suffering, marginalized, or in need. In the Christ Child, we see God's love made tangible—a love that transforms and renews us, filling us with peace and hope even amidst life's challenges.

The Sacred Season is also a time of thanksgiving and generosity; we are profoundly grateful to each and every one of you. Your faith, love, and dedication make our parish vibrant and an authentic family in Christ. It is a privilege to journey with you in faith and to witness the many ways God is working in our parish community.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts and homes with peace, love, and abundant blessings this Christmas and in the New Year. Be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones during this sacred time.

With love, prayers, and every blessing,

Fr. Peter and Fr. Anselm



Gloria in the Highest

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney **Email:** john@sfxballina.org.au

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

www.sfxballina.org.au

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

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

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Alf Bugden,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Ester Raicevich, Beatrice Flood, Jack & Marie Flood, Kitty Tyler, William (Podge) Holwell, Camilla McCoy, Maureen O'Connor, Irene Kearney
AND ALSO FOR: *Littorio Kenk, Peter O'Connor, Alane Atangana-Etundi, 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: 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, Noeline Conyngham, , Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Knightly (*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,



Reflection: Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.



© Dianne Bergant CSA



Peace and Good in Christ!

In the midst of an unstable world, we embrace the Holy Family and Christ Child Who bring divine stability to all humanity and creation.

The Christ Child Jesus through the Stable brings eternal wealth in midst of earthly poverty, kingship in servanthood, strength in vulnerability, glory in humility, proclamation in holy silence, and eternal life in and through death. He shows us the divine way, truth, and life that truly fulfills every human being who receives Him.

Receive Jesus this Christmas.

And keep both Christ and the Mass
in Christmas this year!!!



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



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.

HAPPY and a HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

*Our prayer is that the year 2025 may be brighter, hopeful,
and happier! Thank you all for your greetings and support.
Have a wonderful Christmas. Fr Peter and Fr Anselm*



I said a Prayer for You at Christmas

*I said a special prayer for you,
As Christmas Day drew near,
That God would bless you richly
Throughout the coming year.*

*I did not ask for Him to send
You gifts of worldly wealth;
But prayed that He would fill your life
With peace and joy and health.*

*I asked that you would know His love;
Be comforted in strife;
Seek wisdom and His guidance,
And have abundant life.*

*God sent His Son at Christmas,
That happiest of days,
And most of all I pray that you
Will walk with Him always.*



Parish Notices

Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all Christmas Masses.



WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2025
FEAST OF
MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
MASS 12.00 NOON
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE will
re-open on Tuesday 6th January 2025.

To contact a priest over the holiday period please
call the Presbytery mobile **0423 445 639**.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS READINGS

FIRST READING: Is 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the
hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand
of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My
Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord
takes delight in you and your land will have
its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one
who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices
in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: Today is born our Saviour Christ
the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song unto the Lord.
Sing to the Lord all the earth,
O sing to the Lord bless his name. **(R.)**

2. Proclaim his mercy day by day.
Tell among the nations his glory,
His wonders among the peoples. **(R.)**

3. Let heav'n and earth rejoice and be glad.
The sea and it's creatures thunder praise.
The land and its fruit show forth their joy. **(R.)**

4. Let the trees and forests shout for joy at the
presence of God for the Lord is come.
At the presence of God who rules the earth. **(R.)**

(Continued page 4)

(continued from page 3)

SECOND READING Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS READINGS:

FIRST READING: Is 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

(R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. ***(R.)***

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.

(R.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. ***(R.)***

SECOND READING: Heb 1:1-6
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit every-

the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 1:18-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

thing and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

