

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 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (C)

5th 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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We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

Happy New Year 2025



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Remi Valentine McDonnell** son of Natalie.



Thank You

THANK YOU to all who volunteered at our Masses over Christmas. To those who read and assisted with Holy Communion, the musicians who played, the parish choirs, sacristans, our door greeters and our ladies who arranged the beautiful flowers on the church altars and those who assisted with the collection. Thank you also, to our Church cleaner. Your support of the parish over the Christmas Season and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

'CHERRY COFFEE CLUB' IS BACK FOR 2025

Ladies of our parish you are invited to gather for morning tea.

10.00 am This Tuesday 7th January at

Cherry Street, Bowling Club.

No booking required.

All welcome!



PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will re-open on

THIS Monday 6th January 2025 at 8.30 am.

If you are in need of a priest over this time please call 0423 445 639

URGENT: PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST

LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED FOR 5.30 PM VIGIL MASS & 9.00 AM SUNDAY MASS following Christmas, please contact the Parish Office.



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 Year Quote: "Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence." Saint Augustine

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
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

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

The Baptism of the Lord , Year C: 11th/12th January 2025
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 103; Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16,21-22

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Yvonne Head Matt Ritchie</i>	<i>Jean Mackay Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Nicole Sullivan Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Maxine Cole</i>
EMOHC	<i>Peter Bowen Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Maddy Pride</i>	<i>Denise Miller Cathy Campbell.</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Alf Bugden,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Todd Sheahan, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
AND ALSO FOR: *Michael Stokes, 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 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: 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'Fevé (*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, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

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

REFLECTION: The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvelous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

“ We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”

POPE FRANCIS



THE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF INCENSE

We may not use incense in our liturgies as often as we did in the past, but there is something very precious about the reverencing with incense of the body God has given us at the end of a funeral Mass. The great feast of the Epiphany, which we are celebrating, reminds us that frankincense was among the symbolic gifts brought to the child in Bethlehem by those mysterious wise men from the east.

In his gospel, Matthew is at pains to ensure that his audience – his own Jewish community – realise that Christ had come not only to redeem them, but all peoples. This feast completes the Christmas story: it reminds us that Christ is to be made *manifest* to all the nations. The prophet, Isaiah, sets the scene: the light begins in Jerusalem, but will attract the nations, who will flock with their camels and their gifts of gold and incense. St Paul in his letter reinforces the message by assuring the Ephesians that pagans can now share the same inheritance as his people. And Matthew uses the “wise men” to reveal the mystery of Christ.

Matthew’s story is rich in symbolism as he goes out of his way to ensure that we make all the necessary connections: he reminds us of the prophet Micah’s reference to Bethlehem as well as Isaiah’s mention of the gifts. He wants us to reflect on the fact that the Spirit of God must have prompted these men into action. To make their pilgrimage and be led to “fall on their knees” in homage to the child, whom they were able to recognise as the promised Messiah.

They clearly possessed those mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit: gifts of *wisdom, knowledge and understanding*, which enabled them to *judge* that God would give them the *courage* to undertake their undoubtedly hazardous pilgrimage and the discernment to realise that Herod was up to no good – a clear pointer to the persecutions that awaited Jesus and his followers.

Then, when they see the child, they are filled with *awe* and *reverence*, going down on their knees to pay homage. Make no mistake, their gifts are also full of meaning. The gold speaks to us of this new kingdom to be established in our hearts: a kingdom of love, hope, forgiveness and reconciliation. The myrrh speaks to us of the suffering foretold by the prophets, and the need for Christ’s body to be anointed after his death.

And finally, we come to the frankincense: this invites us to be like the wise men and recognise that Jesus is truly the Son of God. At the end of his gospel, Matthew will remind us that this act of faith was made by a foreigner, the centurion, as he stood by the cross. May we go home reminding ourselves that Jesus, in turn, told us that we are his adopted brothers and sisters, also children of his Father: hence the profound significance of the incense at a funeral Mass.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR © Majellan Media 2024

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

7th 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
5th February	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head

CATECHISTS MATTER

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.

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 box provided or contact the parish office. If 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. ***We look forward to meeting you.***



**SILENT WOMEN'S
RETREAT**
BY: BISHOP GREG HOMEMING, OCD

25 - 27 JANUARY 2025
MT. CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE
247 ST. ANDREWS ROAD, VARROVILLE, NSW
0405 327 153
youth@lismore.catholic.org.au

SCAN TO REGISTER 

 **Tribunal of the Catholic Church :** Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on 6622 7288 or Email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org

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: In recess.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Recommence
Friday 3rd January

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

CCR: In recess.

Marian Cenacle: In recess.

Parish Youth Group: In recess

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6;

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6;

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This

mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord



FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 7th JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: The Lord is God and has given us light.

Communion Antiphon: Because of that great love of his with which God loved us, he sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.

WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: A people who walked in darkness has seen a great light; for those dwelling in a land of deep gloom, a light has shone.

Communion Antiphon: That life which was with the Father became visible, and has appeared to us..

THURSDAY 9th JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: In the beginning and before all ages, the Word was God and he humbled himself to be born the Saviour of the world.

Communion Antiphon: God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

FRIDAY 10th JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.

Communion Antiphon: By this the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.



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.