

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.**

**HOLY FAMILY
Jesus, Mary & Joseph
(C)**

29th December, 2024

**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

**Mary the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday**

**Sts Basil the Great &
Gregory Nazianzen
Thursday**

**The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Friday**

We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

**'WELCOME' TO OUR PARISH THOSE VISITING
OVER THIS FESTIVE SEASON**



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Florence McKinnon** daughter of Joseph and Jacinta.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will re-open on
Monday 6th January 2025 at 8.30 am.
If you are in need of a priest over this time please call 0423 445 639

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.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Do not forget to pick up your **FREE** copy the Christmas edition of the parish **'CONNECT'** from our Churches or download from the Parish website .
CONNECT will be back in 2025.

**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.



'THANK YOU' to all parents in our parish who supervise their children while attending Mass and within our Church grounds.

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 Epiphany of the Lord, Year C: 4th/5th January 2025
Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Mick Vella Pauline Fingleton Marie Sullivan	Richard Goss Wendy Hughes	Gemma Duffy John Jarzynski
EMOHC	Yvonne Head Phil Chapman	Murray Deeps	Adam Sullivan Denise Miller Cathy Campbell.	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			Ron Hughes Joan Hollingsworth	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Alf Bugden,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Ester Raicevich, Michael Stokes, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Shari McLeish, Armando Bordin, Betty Chandler,
AND ALSO FOR: *Littorio Kenk, 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

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, like you we are members of the Father's family. We pray that our family love may reflect his love on its openness to all people. May we forgive even when not forgiven, and be patient with others' weaknesses.

Jesus, give us peace, unity and strength to meet the difficulties of daily living.

May we use our family resources to improve the quality of life for ourselves and all people.

Let us show joy in serving, for whatever we do for others, we do for you.

Mary, inspire us, that our love may be strong but not possessive. Let our willingness to give depend on the needs of others rather than on the cost of giving.

Joseph, help us to be attentive to the Father's will.

Let us be ready, as you were, to act whenever he calls us.



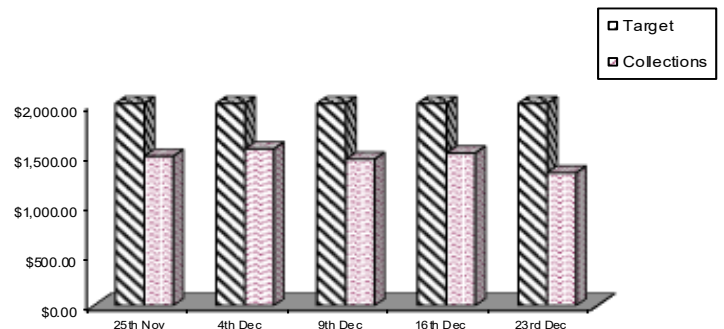
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 679.60
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 393.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,313.50
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



JESUS AND HIS FAMILY

We are indebted to St Luke for giving us some insight into the life of Jesus some forty days after his birth and then at the age of twelve. On both occasions, Jesus is depicted being with his parents, Joseph and Mary, on a hundred-mile round trip from Nazareth to visit the Jerusalem temple. At best, their “caravan” would have consisted of mules and donkeys along with lots of Nazarenes travelling together to protect themselves from being robbed.

On the first occasion, Jesus as the first-born son is presented to the Lord in the temple as Mosaic custom required. On the second occasion, which we heard in today’s Gospel, the parents take the twelve-year old Jesus to the temple in celebration of the feast of Passover. This is the holiest feast on the Israelite calendar commemorating Jewish freedom from slavery in Egypt and the beginning of their journey towards the Promised Land.

Luke, himself a Gentile (non-Jew), demonstrates strong links between the Holy Family, Jewish traditions and the God of Israel. However, the narrative of Jesus being lost on the homebound journey, only to be discovered “three days later” teaching in the temple, is a remarkable story! How are we to interpret this strange and somewhat challenging turn of events?

In some ways this is the common story known to all parents as children approach adolescence and begin to express their independence. Moreover, on finding that Jesus is not among their “relatives and acquaintances” in the returning caravan, you can imagine the fear and anguish that Joseph and Mary experienced. Then on finding him, their relief and joy are evident. But, so too, is their incomprehension of Jesus’ actions evident in the encounter between Jesus and Mary.

First of all, we note it is Mary rather than Joseph who confronts Jesus asking him directly: “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been so worried looking for you.” Jesus’ response – “Why were you searching for me?” – carries a hint of annoyance that his parents understood him so poorly. So, he asks them: “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Here, the tension between Jesus and his parents is palpable with Luke telling us directly: “They did not understand what he was saying to them.” Quite evidently we are witnessing a poignant moment in the life of the Jewish village boy, Jesus, discovering his vocation in the service of God takes priority over family ties. Nonetheless, we are told, Jesus returned to the family home in Nazareth where he grew to maturity as an obedient and faithful son.

This is the last we hear of Jesus until he begins his public ministry around the age of thirty. We may well surmise that, in the meantime, Jesus took up Joseph’s carpentry trade while he continued to develop his knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures. Yet, this temple incident reminds us that Jesus’ messiahship comes to birth in the context of family life and relationships.

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**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



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.**



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.

DID YOU KNOW:

- The Passover was one of the three Jewish feasts that should be celebrated in Jerusalem at the temple if at all possible. It was common that many people from a town, or an extended family, would travel together to Jerusalem for Passover, mostly for reasons of safety on the road.
- This text demonstrates yet again that Mary and Joseph were devout and pious Jews who observed all the rituals and customs of Judaism.
- This is the only scene focusing on the boyhood of Jesus in any of the gospels. Luke includes it to highlight one of his central motifs: Jesus’ later journey to Jerusalem to the cross—the new Passover.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28;

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **(R.)**

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**

3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
gave ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading: John 3:1-2,21-24;

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it
does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord, listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 31st DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Communion Antiphon: God sent his Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.

WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2025 ~ FEAST OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Communion Antiphon: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever..

THURSDAY 2nd JANUARY 2025

Entrance Antiphon: Let the peoples recount the wisdom of the Saints, and let the Church proclaim their praise. Their names will live on and on.

Communion Antiphon: We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

FRIDAY 3rd JANUARY 2025

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,



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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.