

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 Presentation of the Lord (C)

2nd February, 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 Agatha
Wednesday**

**St Paul Miki and
companions
Thursday**

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: **Bodhi Jacob, Island Grace and Bronte Gabriel Bordin** children of Nicholas and Hannah; **Hazel Mae King** daughter of Jacob and Mikayla; **Dusty Victor Stafford** son of Jai and Hannah.

'PARISH 'CUPPA'

in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church,
THIS Sunday 2nd February, following the 9.00 am Mass.
Our first for 2025, a great chance to catch up.

Everyone is very welcome.



CATECHISTS: A Catechist meeting will be held **this 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 THIS 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 this Tuesday 4th February
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. **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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 8th/9th February 2025
Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 137; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; 5:1-11

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Mick Vella Dan Gubby</i>	<i>Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Julie McKinnon Margaret Tay</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins John Jarzynski</i>
EMOHC	<i>Tamara Gubby Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Denise Miller Cathy Campbell.</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Amy Derrick & Frank</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Noela Barnier (*Grafton, mother of Steve*), Mary Jill Deeps, Robyn Hancock, Dawn McLellan,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Boleslaw Jarzynski, Fay Biddle, Richard Patterson, Roslyn Evans, Laurie Ianna, Dean Russell Redford

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 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: Kevin Sullivan, Sr Moria (Bathurst), Father Bob Bossini (Fairfield), 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, Aunt Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Maree Doolan, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

3rd February	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation & music
4th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
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
25th February	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary AGM
5th March	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday

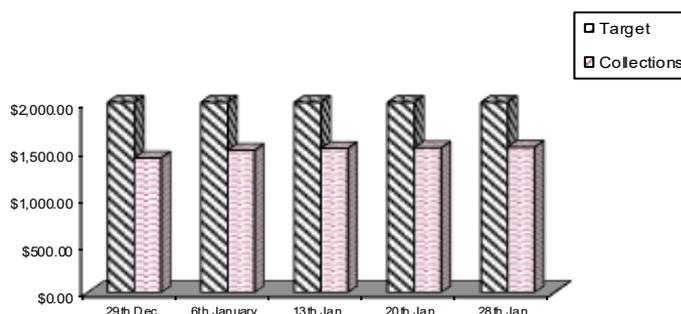
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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>	\$ 655.50
Second Collection	Loose Plate	\$ 358.50
<i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,528.10
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



A CHILD TO LIGHT UP THE WORLD

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? Various images might come to mind, but why not turn to the person next to you who is made in the image and likeness of God? But, what if God looks like this baby? A child whose crying wakes us and worries us at moments as we hold them close, a child who depends on us for life.

Forty days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem, where she is to present herself and her child, as the Law required. But there, in the Temple, something unexpected happens. They are amazed at what Simeon and Anna have to say about their baby, but it's not clear to them what it might mean – how could it be? – because God's ways often upend our way of doing things.

Before he utters his prophetic words, Simeon takes this baby in his arms and gives praise to God. That's what we're asked to do: to take Him in our arms, take God to heart, and give thanks. But often we're not too sure about this. We're open to it, but we hesitate, and Simeon reveals why, when he speaks of Him as being rejected by many in Israel and of a sword piercing Mary's soul.

Perhaps we find it difficult to imagine His birth and His death at the same time. Indeed, we may prefer to put any thought of the cross out of our minds for a while and think fondly of the baby in his crib or his mother's arms.

Of course, none of us is anticipating grief, but when grief enters our lives, how to respond? As the aunt of a baby who died soon after birth once said, "It's tough to believe that we will emerge from the darkness." Later she reflected, "In each of us we harbour both the living and the dying Christ." Recalling her words on first seeing her niece - "You are so beautiful. I love you so much" – she realised that's what God says to us ... always.

Taking to heart her words, when we hear of the Lord suddenly entering his Temple, not in power and might, as in the first reading, but in weakness and need as a baby, we see in this child a light to enlighten the world.

This child is our salvation. So today, which is also known as Candlemas Day, we might light a candle and give thanks for His coming amongst us. For He comes to free us from our fear of death, as the second reading says, so that, in time, we may find ourselves sharing the gift of His life with others. We're invited to take Him into our hearts and accompany Him as He grows in maturity, wisdom and grace.

Whatever the future holds, God is with us.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025



BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



You're invited!

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

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!






Assistant Accountant

The Diocese of Lismore is seeking applications for Assistant Accountant role in The Chancery team in Lismore. This role is perfect for those working towards an accounting degree or are a recent accounting graduate.

- Support with degree or CPA/CA;
- Exceptional workplace culture and support;
- Enjoy a community-focused environment;
- Experience a diverse finance portfolio;
- Competitive salary of \$60,000 to \$75,000 plus super.

Use the QR code or visit the link below to find out more and apply.

seek.com.au/job/81376185





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.

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: Every second Monday SFX Church from 12.00 noon.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday.

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

CCR: Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029.

Marian Cenacle: Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.

Parish Youth Group: 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Upper Room Parish Admin Building **Sunday evenings.**

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.



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



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: Malachi 3:1-4;*A reading from the prophet Malachi*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord!.**

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R.)**

2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **(R.)**

3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R.)**

4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he

took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

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

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY AND FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY**

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY ~ FEAST OF ST AGATHA

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY ~ FEAST OF ST PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS

Entrance Antiphon: The souls of the Saints are rejoicing in heaven, the Saints who followed the footsteps of Christ, and since for love of him they shed their blood, they now exult with Christ for ever.

Communion Antiphon: It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, says the Lord, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.

REFLECTION: Traditionally this is the fortieth day of Christmas. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany, the **Presentation** brings us back to some of the Christmas themes. The feast is on the edge, a kind of hinge between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. The temple is not merely a building where believers gather to worship God. It is sacred because it is the dwelling place of God on earth. Therefore, the coming of God to the temple was always a time of great anticipation and excitement. It promised blessing and rejoicing.

The first reading declares that God will come to the temple in might and power. This coming will be terrifying. The sacred precincts have been desecrated and so God will come to purify it with fire and lye. This picture of purification is modified by the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews where we see that the purging and refinement are accomplished in the self-sacrifice of Christ.

It took the eyes of the old man and the faith of an old woman to recognise that the Lord had indeed come into the temple. Ritually, it was the child who was redeemed. In fact, it is the world that will be redeemed by this child. He is the light that shines in the darkness of the world; he will enlighten all people, Jew and Gentile alike. This feast shares the theme of universality so prominent on the feast of the Epiphany. The king of glory opens the portals for the entire universe to enter.