

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina



Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people

St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

Holy Family Church, Lennox Head

4th Sunday of
Lent (C)

31st March, 2019



WEEKEND'S READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

PSALM RESPONSE

*Taste and see the goodness
of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

*I will rise and go to my father
and tell him:*

*Father! I have sinned against
heaven and against you.*

*Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

The Bond of Love

The parable in today's gospel tells us about the experience of being loved. It is about a father who shares his love equally with both his sons and as they mature into adulthood, he gives them space to make their own decisions.

But the younger son decides he wants to have his own life and so he moves away and becomes disconnected from his father and brother. The oldest son, however, decides to remain loyal and to serve his father. But one day after arriving home after a day working in the fields, he becomes angry after seeing his father embrace his younger brother who has returned home.

It seems unbelievable that his father would welcome the younger sibling because he turned his back on his father and the family home. However, this is where we witness God's mercy which goes beyond our human thoughts and standards. Seeing his younger son coming towards him, his father runs to him, welcoming and hugging him with tremendous joy and love. To his relief, the younger son finds his father is still the same loving and merciful man.

His father can't hide his joy so he throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The younger son feels even more loved by his father than before he left the family property. The oldest son is invited to join the celebrations but refuses and complains that he has served his father loyally all his life but has never been treated like a king. Why would the younger brother be treated

like a king when he turned his back on his father? It doesn't make sense!

At this moment he doesn't feel loved even though he experienced his father's care all his life. Both sons at different times fail to see the deepest generosity of their father's heart. The father knows that if they are away and lose contact with him, they will die. They will have no life. The younger son experienced this scenario which is why his father is so happy when he returns. The elder son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, already has a wonderful life with his father but fails to see this.

Likewise, we are all safe in God's house who loves us so much we have the freedom to make our own decisions.

(Continued on page 4)



www.sfxballina.org.au

Twitter
[@BallinaCatholic](https://twitter.com/BallinaCatholic)

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Parish Priest: Father Michael Nilon (on long service sabbatical)

Administrator: Father Max Gow

Assistant Priest: Father Wilber Tobe Email: wilber@sfxballina.org.au

Assistant Priest: Father Emmanuel Okparanaku

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Email: parishcouncil@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**

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

ROSTER: 5th Sunday in Lent, Year C: 6th/7th April, 2019
Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 125; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Offertory Procession
Readers	Dan Gubby Yvonne Head	Steve Seymore Murray Deeps	Mary Steenson Wendy Hughes	9.00 am ~ Ballina <i>Greta Conlan & Cathy Campbell</i>
Ext. Ministers Holy Communion	Mick Vella Pauline Shay Michael Shay	Sue Hetherington	Adam Sullivan Annette Reen Gary Reen Cathy Campbell	
Sacristan	Monica Anderson	Jeannie Savage	Lea Lane	
Altar Servers	<i>Jorja Wagland Lucy Schofield Liam, Benedict & Rose Meany</i>	<i>Luca Beasley-Kenk</i>	<i>Sophie, Bailey & Christian Sullivan Clare Lynch Anthony Coutinho</i>	
Children's Liturgy		<i>Michelle Sullivan David Sullivan</i>	<i>Carol & Frank Lynch</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Carolina Bordin, Mary Waller, Lee Visco, Janice Hodgetts, William Reilly (Brisbane), Leo Rook, Judy Grosse, Michael Kearney, Wayne Clarke
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: *Peter O'Connor, Monica Dwyer, Margaret Clissold, Kerry Ruge*

AND ALSO FOR: *Armando Bordin, Nora Shannon, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Kathleen Kelly, Cath Waddell, James & Mary Rogers, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all faithful departed.*

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Joe Paolino, Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Elva Kidd, Tania Pieters, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, John O'Loughlin, Rosemary Russell, Rose Norris, John Moreland, Bill Duffy, Dymna Sheehy, Paul Rix, Margaret Bermingham, Virginia Paden, Greg Shore, Darcy Martin, Margaret Pyne, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Noeleen Gillies, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Helen Johnston, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Maria Gorton, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Max Crosswell, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Len Rix, Mick O'Brien, Mark Harris, Graham Robertson, Neville Johnston, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Ruth Anderson, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Jonathan Paden, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Due to privacy laws, names are only

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held at any time in either Church on any day. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

CONFIRMATION: Wednesday **22nd May, 2019.** Parent Meeting Wednesday 20th March.

RECONCILIATION: Wednesday **28th August, 2019.** Parent Meeting Wednesday 31st July

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: **22nd March, 2020.** Parent Meeting **19th February.** Groups start **23rd February.**

WEDDINGS: by appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: during Mass on dates to be advertised during the year, and on request; and at regular intervals at the hospital and aged care facilities.

HOSPITAL: Catholic patients in Ballina Hospital are visited by a member of the parish team on a regular basis. Given the difficulty we have in obtaining names of those in hospital, a visit is made to **those who tell us** they are in the hospital. We will only know someone is in the hospital if we are told by family or friends. This is due to the Privacy laws that govern our nation.

EASTER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

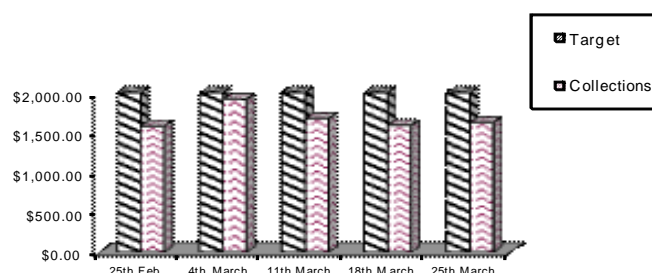
- **Palm Sunday 14th April**
- **Good Friday 19th April**
- **Easter Sunday 21st April**



DIF PAYS 2.15% 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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS		
First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 1,365.45
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 289.10
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,626.50
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



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 in the foyer of the Church. Please complete your details and place on the collection plate in the envelope provided, or contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

Parish Notices



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
each **Friday** evening during Lent
7.00 pm - SFX Church Ballina.

2019 BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALKS ST CARTHAGE'S CATHEDRAL LISMORE



- **Tuesday 2nd April 6.00 pm**
 - **Tuesday 9th April 6.00 pm**
- 'Jesus Christ and friendship with Him'**

All are Welcome!

The Lenten Talks will be recorded on the night and put onto the Diocese website www.lismorediocese.org

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LENNOX HEAD 'MARCH'



'BIRTHDAY MORNING TEA'
This Sunday 31st March following the
7.30 am Mass.



Where should we fix our gaze along the journey of Lent?
On the Crucifix.

Jesus on the Cross is the compass of life that leads us to heaven.

Pope Francis @ Pontifex 28/3/19 17.9 million followers

St Mary's Parish, Casino invites you to a
REFLECTION DAY
with Sam Clear

Where: Relihan Centre, Canterbury St, Casino
When: 10.00 am till 4.00 pm Saturday, 13th April
Cost: \$15 per person ~ Morning tea and lunch provided
RSVP: by 6th April to Casino Parish Office Ph: 6662 1025
Sam Clear is from Tasmania, spent last 18 years working in mission and ministry in Australia and New Zealand. He is an author, documentary producer and has facilitated over 1000 reflection days. More on Sam at www.walk4one.com



ST VINCENT DE PAUL PIETY SHOP

operates in the foyer of St. Francis Xavier Church. Open before & after 6.00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass & 9.00 am

Sunday Mass. **Confirmation, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Baptism** gift ideas available. **Communion and Baptism**, gift ideas are available.

THE GOOD MORNING PRAYER

Good Morning God!

You are ushering in another day,
untouched and freshly new.
So here I am to ask you, God,
if You'll renew me too.

Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday
and let me try again dear God
to walk closer in Your way.
But Lord, I am well aware,
I can't make it on my own.
So take my hand and hold it tight,
for I cannot walk alone.

<https://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story>

OUR LADY OF FATIMA 1st Saturday Devotions

Rosary at Holy Family Church
Lennox Head.

Next Saturday 6th April
at 8.00 am.

Everyone welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Holy Family Church parishioners hosted a moving World Day of Prayer on 1st March. People of diverse faiths donated \$385.40, which will provide trauma counseling for Slovenian women.



In his first Lenten talk, Bishop Greg Homeming urged us to heed the words written by St James: "Show me your love". We thank each person, including students from Xavier Catholic College, who supported the day—you are St

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

2019/2020 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION

Groups begin 7th April

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a **Marriage Enrichment** experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

Weekend date: 26th–28th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au
Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or

adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

QLD Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Dates: 2nd - 4th August 2019

Contact: David & Maria Murphy or

Phone: 07 3342 1456.

Email: qldbookings@wwme.org.au

Location: **Santa Teresa Spiritual Centre,**
267 Wellington Street, Ormiston. QLD

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NEXT WEEKEND SUNDAY 7th APRIL

Remember to turn your clocks back 1



NEW PARISHIONER? If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, **we welcome you to our 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 6681 1048.

(continued from page 1) Coming home is really a journey of love. It takes a lot of courage as the younger son showed. The parable also reveals that staying with the father can provide great joy and the fullness of life.

God the father never changes his love for us. He is always waiting for us. Let us make the move and go back home to renew our relationship with God the Father, in order to experience his unconditional love and mercy, and be ready to share God's life with others, especially with the wounded ones.

Redempt Jawa CSsR
© Redemptorists

THE FIRST BEATITUDE OF JESUS
"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"

67. The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. Jesus himself tells us this in the parable of the rich fool: he speaks of a man who was sure of himself, yet foolish, for it did not dawn on him that he might die that very day (cf. Lk 12:16-21).

68. Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. In this way, we miss out on the greatest treasure of all. That is why Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness.

69. This spiritual poverty is closely linked to what Saint Ignatius of Loyola calls "holy indifference", which brings us to a radiant interior freedom: "We need to train ourselves to be indifferent in our attitude to all created things, in all that is permitted to our free will and not forbidden; so that on our part, we do not set our hearts on good health rather than bad, riches rather than poverty, honour rather than dishonour, a long life rather than a short one, and so in all the rest" [68]

From APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE
OF THE HOLY FATHER, FRANCIS
ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Christian Meditation Group is held every Saturday at 9.30am in Anawim Room

Cenacle Marian Movement of Priests: Monday 11.00 am—12.15 pm at 3/21 Swift Street, Ballina.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday mornings from 11.00 to 11.45 am at SFX Church Ballina (except when there is a funeral that day).

Ballina CCR Intercession from 10.45 am to 11.45 am in the Anawim Room. **Prayer Meeting:** from Monday 4th Feb 2.15 pm to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room

Prayer of the Church and Rosary Saturday at 9.00 am SFX Ballina

Parish Youth Group: Saturday 6.00 pm, Mass then to St Francis Xavier School Hall, Crane Street-7.00pm to 8.30 pm.

Sisterhood: Monday at 10.00 am in St Teresa Room, Parish Administration Building. **All Welcome**

PROJECT COMPASSION—WEEK 4 AUSTRALIA

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis centre in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential care, employment and training for First Australians.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH DR TIM GRAY



Set yourself up for a transformative 40 days with **FORMED** Lenten Reflections. Get daily videos delivered to your inbox. Don't miss a day of growing closer to our Lord. To register go to formed.org/promo/lent-registration

MASS TIMES

St Francis Xavier Church
Ballina

Holy Family Church
Lennox Head

SATURDAY	6.00 pm	
SUNDAY	9.00 am	7.30 am
MONDAY	8.00 am	
TUESDAY	5.20 pm	
WEDNESDAY	10.00 am SMoC Chapel Crowley	
THURSDAY	8.00 am	
FRIDAY	12.00 noon	

OTHER CEREMONIES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY		8.00 am Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
FRIDAY	11.00 to 11.45 am Exposition	
SATURDAY	7.00 pm Stations of the Cross	
	9.00 am Prayer of the Church	

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY	9.00—10.00 am Also on request	
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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.