

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

5th Sunday of Easter
(B)

29th April, 2018

Alleluia

St Athanasius
Wednesday

Sts Philip & James
Thursday

**THIS WEEKEND'S
READINGS**

Acts 9:26-31;
1 John 3:18-24;
John 15:1-8

PSALM RESPONSE

*I will praise you Lord, in the
assembly of your people.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Live in me and let me live in
you, says the Lord; my
branches bear much fruit.*

Alleluia!

Staying connected to Jesus

In last Sunday's gospel, the evangelist John spoke of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd highlights Jesus' steadfast love and care for us, just as a good shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. Of course, a corollary of the Good Shepherd image is that we are the sheep (and, like sheep, we can be rather uncooperative at times)!

In today's gospel, John writes of Jesus as the true vine from which all of the branches of the vine draw their life and sustenance, and of his Father as the vine-dresser who tends

the vine and prunes it of withered branches. The core of the message this week is that we are the branches, and that we draw our life and sustenance from our connection to Jesus.

The gospel highlights the beautiful image of mutual abiding – we in Jesus and Jesus in Us. It stresses that all who abide in Jesus and draw their sustenance from him will bear much fruit, just as the branches on a good vine do. Whereas last week's image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd focuses

attention on Jesus' relationship to us, today's image of Jesus as the true vine focuses our attention more strongly on our relationship to Jesus and our responsibility as his disciples. We are to make our home in him, to stay connected to him, and to be fruitful.



Indeed, the gospel quite forcefully drives home the point of our abiding in him. We are to remain in him not just for the sake of our comfort and enjoyment. The gospel is clear in reminding us that every branch is expected to be fruitful. The second reading today, from the First Letter of John, spells out the fruits that are expected of us: our

love for one another is not to be expressed in just words or mere talk, but in truth and action, something real and active.

Those fruits, demonstrated in truth and action, are our witness to Jesus and the good news revealed in his life, death and resurrection. The first reading today points to the great apostle Paul as an exemplar of discipleship, bearing much fruit, and giving Christian witness not merely in words but in truth and action.

(Continued 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: Fr Michael Nilon

Deacon: Rev Wilber Tobe

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; Library Assistant available: Tues & Thurs 10 am to 12 noon; Library located in Parish Admin Building

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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: 6th Sunday of Easter, Year B: 5th/6th May, 2018
Readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 97; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Offertory Procession
Readers	Carmen Stock Michelle Stock	David Sullivan Michelle Sullivan	Margaret Tay David Eyles	9.00 am ~ Ballina <i>Warwick Manning & Mary O'Brien</i>
Ext. Ministers Holy Communion	Jeanette Wilkins Kerrily Jelfs Martin Jelfs	Judith Fitzhenry	Mark Biddle Mary Steenson Denise Miller Cathy Campbell	
Sacristan	Marie /Jeannie	Monica Anderson	
Altar Servers	<i>Jorja Wagland Lucy Schofield Liam Meany</i>	<i>Zac Sullivan Grace Kennedy</i>	<i>Sophie Sullivan Bailey Sullivan Clare Lynch</i>	
Children's Liturgy		Courtney Wells Kate Salmon	Carol and Frank Lynch	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Joe Bonaventura, Bobby Martin-Huxley, Leonard Twohill, Raymond Maloy (*Werris Creek*), Peter O'Connor

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Glorie Kelly, Danny Sheahan, Neville Butler, Arthur Robert Townsend, John Condon, Jach & Marie Flood

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

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL:

Irene Scarp, Teresita Calugay, Reba Smidt, Henry Backshell, Alie Hogan, John Heaton, Yvonne Doherty, Andrew Charteris, Helen Johnston, Rebecca & Francis Raikadroka, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Fr Frank Coorey, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Margaret Grant, Max Crosswell, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Len Rix, Mick O'Brien, Mark Harris, Josephine Huxley, Noeleen Gillies, Graham Robertson, Marie Williams, Justin Connellan, Neville Johnston, Rose Norris, Colleen Connellan, Joan Flew, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Catherine (Kitty) Gorton, Carolina Bordin, Leonard White, Gloria Bordin, Joan Schumack, Rita Shipman, Ruth Anderson, Dympna Sheehy, Leo Lane, Mira Paden (*Croatia*), Debbie Fraser, Mary Topham, Margaret Pyne, Bill Shay, Peter Albertini, Julie Benton, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Robyn Hancock, *Aunty* Julia Paden, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Crena Hemmings, Samantha Anderson, Jonothan Paden, Tony Lannan, Yvonne del-Signore (*Aunty Ponnice*), Kim del-Signore,

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month at St Francis Xavier's at 10.15 am. A baptism can only be requested by parents of the child to be baptised. It is compulsory for both parents preferably, (or at least one of them) to attend a preparation night, which is held in the Parish Admin Building on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 pm. The date for the baptism is tentative until attendance at the preparation night. Bookings for the preparation evening are essential and made through Parish Admin 6681 1048.

CONFIRMATION: Wednesday **8th August, 2018.** Parent Meeting Wednesday 23rd May, 2018.

RECONCILIATION: Wednesday **19th September, 2018.** Parent Meeting Thursday 16th August, 2018

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday **17th March 2019.** Parent Meeting Wednesday 13th February 2019

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.

MUSIC: According to the Church's 2000 year tradition and our understanding of the prayer-based nature of funerals and weddings, the only music possible at both liturgies (whether Mass or Prayers) is either hymns or suitable instrumental music. No secular music! There are no exceptions.

FUNERALS: Whether held with Requiem Mass or Prayers – either in the church or elsewhere – funerals always follow the Church's Liturgy. E.G.: hymns only (see details in Music section); 1 (one) only tribute to the deceased (known in secular funerals as eulogies) of 3-5 minutes (maximum). The personal tribute (eulogy) is always optional.

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.

DIF PAYS 2.15% PER ANNUM AT CALL

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>	\$ 1,180.30
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 528.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,396.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00

Date	Target	Collections
26th March	\$2,009.00	\$1,800.00
3rd April	\$2,009.00	\$1,800.00
9th April	\$2,009.00	\$1,800.00
16th April	\$2,009.00	\$1,800.00
23rd April	\$2,009.00	\$1,800.00

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.

POPE FRANCIS: 'We are not Christian without the Church'

<<There is no such thing as a Christian without the Church, a Christian who walks alone, because Jesus inserted himself into the journey of His people: This was Pope Francis reflection at Mass this morning in Casa Santa Marta. Emer McCarthy reports:



Beginning with the first reading of the day, Pope Francis said that when they proclaimed Jesus the apostles did not begin with Him, but the history of the people. In fact " Jesus does not make sense without this history" because He "is the end of this story, [the end] towards which this story goes, towards which it walks". So "you cannot understand a Christian outside of the people of God. The Christian is not a monad", but "belongs to a people: the Church. A Christian without a church is something purely idealistic, it is not real".

"But you cannot understand a Christian alone, just like you cannot understand Jesus Christ alone. Jesus Christ did not fall from the sky like a superhero who comes to save us. No. Jesus Christ has a history. And we can say, and it is true, that God has a history because He wanted to walk with us. And you cannot understand Jesus Christ without His history. So a Christian without history, without a Christian nation, a Christian without the Church is incomprehensible. It is a thing of the laboratory, an artificial thing, a thing that cannot give life".

The people of God, "walking with a promise. This dimension, it is important that we always remember this dimension of history:

"A Christian is a [*memorioso* – living memory] of the history of his people, he is a living memory of his people's journey, he is the living memory of his Church. Memory ... memory of all of the past ... Then, where is this people going? Towards the ultimate promise. It is a people walking towards fullness; a chosen people which has a promise for the future and walks toward this promise, towards the fulfillment of this promise. And for this, a Christian in the Church is a man, a woman with hope: hope in the promise. It is not expectation: no, no! That's something else: It is hope. Right, on we go! [Towards] that which does not disappoint". ...>>

This article replaces Fr Michael's column for this week.

Parish Notices

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
CONFIRMATION 2018:**

Confirmation parent meeting **Wednesday, 23rd May, at 6.00 pm Upper Room, Parish Administration Centre**
Groups start **Sunday 3rd June**
Reflection Day – **Thursday 7th August**
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
Wednesday 8th August at 5.30 pm

COFFEE CRAWL ~ 'The Wharf' Fawcett St, Ballina.
This Monday 30th April at 10.00 am.
All Welcome

CATECHISTS MEETING~
Saint Teresa Room ~
Tuesday 8th May ~ 9.30 am.
All Catechists and helpers are encouraged to attend.



NOTE FOR LENNOX HEAD PARISHIONERS

Please refrain from parking in front of the house on Holy Family Church property. The people who are renting the house from the parish have a right to park in front of their home without disruption. The space between the driveway and the house is privately rented by the occupants.

**CROWLEY AUXILIARY
MOTHERS' DAY LUNCHEON**
DATE: WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY
PLACE: CROWLEY ACTIVITY CENTRE
TIME: 12.00 noon
COST: \$28.00 per person ~ BYO
'HEADLINERS' will present a special performance for your enjoyment.
RSVP: Please book and pay at Crowley Reception by Wednesday 2nd May.



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH ~ LENNOX HEAD
'APRIL BIRTHDAY MORNING TEA'**

This Sunday 29th April following the 7.30 am Mass

You are most welcome.



FRIENDS OF THE CARMELITES MEETING:
10.00 am Wednesday 2nd May — followed by morning tea. Contact Narelle on 6624 1973.

EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all in receipt of an income have an obligation to support the works of the Church through the Planned Giving Program, it is a responsibility of all of us to support the clergy, keeping in mind that they need to eat too. We offer this support by giving to the 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

(Continued from page 1) Jesus does not mince words in today's gospel. He tells us that every branch of the vine that does not bear fruit will be cut away by the Father who prunes the vine. But he also says that if we remain in him and his words remain in us, he will be with us. The challenge is to enter, with him, into the paschal mystery of death and resurrection and to let God's boundless grace shape our growth in wisdom, grace and love that is real and active.

Emeritus Professor Anne Hunt OAM
© Redemptorists 2018



Be a Volunteer OUT THERE

Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati & Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity.

Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but **immerse themselves in overseas communities** for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, **share them with our global family!**

Come to the Palms Info Session:
Saturday 12th May, 3.30 pm
Brisbane Square Library, Community Meeting Room
266 George Street, Brisbane
www.palms.org.au/volunteer or phone (02) 9560 5333

CATHOLIC PAPERS are on sale at the back of the church before and after all Sunday Masses. Please pick up a copy of the Catholic Weekly **\$2.00** or Catholic Leader **\$2.50**.

SAVE THE DATE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST With BISHOP GREGORY HOMEMING

Tuesday, 25th September, 2018
Activity Centre, Crowley Village

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.

BALLINA PARISH YOUTH GROUP
is in recess and will resume next Saturday 5th May.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday mornings from 10.30 to 11.45 am at SFX Church Ballina (except when there is a funeral that day)

Ballina CCR Intercession Monday from 10.45 to 11.45 am in Anawim Room. **Prayer meeting:** Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Anawim Room.

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

Prayer of the Church and Rosary Saturday at 8.15 am SFX Ballina.

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

Sisterhood: Monday at 10.00 am in Saint Teresa Room, Parish Admin. **Everyone Welcome!**



YEAR OF YOUTH

Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland. Inspire the entire Church as we discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.

Come Holy Spirit of Youth. Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ; enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth.

Come Holy Spirit of Faith. Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship; accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.

Come Holy Spirit of Vocation. Stir within young people an awareness of the Father's call. Guide us all in finding our place and raising our voices to build a civilisation of love and justice.

THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

A personal encounter weekend for those who are grieving the loss of a spouse/partner through separation, divorce or death will be held from **18th—20th May, at Invercauld House, Goonellabah.**

The weekend offers participants the opportunity to turn the pain of loss into growth.

For further details and an application form call Judy 6624 1549, Jeanette 6687 7284 or 0403 293 734 or visit our website: www.belismore.org.au

Applications close **4th May.**

MASS TIMES

St Francis Xavier Church
Ballina

Holy Family
Church
Lennox Head

	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 Mass	
TUESDAY	5.20 pm	
WEDNESDAY	10.00 am Crowley Village Activity Centre	
THURSDAY	8.00 am	
FRIDAY	12 Noon	

OTHER CEREMONIES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY		8.00 am Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
FRIDAY	10.30 to 11.45 am Exposition	
SATURDAY	8.15 am Prayer of the Church and Rosary	

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY	9.00—10.00 am Also on request	
----------	----------------------------------	--



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.