

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



**St Francis Xavier Church,
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,
Ballina**

welcome

**Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.**

**15th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)**

12th July, 2020

**Parish Weekend Mass
Times**

**St Francis Xavier Church
Ballina (45 people)**

**Saturday Vigil — 5.00 pm
Sunday — 9.00 am
Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Holy Family Church
Lennox Head (20 people)**

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm
Sunday—7.30 am**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND
a weekend Mass by phoning
6681 1048**

by Friday at 3.00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

**At St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY to FRIDAY
12 noon (45 people)
Please register with Parish Office**

**RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday
St Francis Xavier Church**

Feasts

**St Bonaventure
Saturday**

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Thursday**



Prelude to a harvest

Following their mutiny against Captain Bligh on HMS Bounty in 1789, the mutineers and their Tahitian companions settled on Pitcairn Island, one of a group of four small volcanic islands that form the sole British overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean. Initially, they survived by farming and fishing, but 10 years later alcohol, murder and disease had taken the lives of most of the men.

About this time, two remaining mutineers, John Adams and Ned Young, came across the "Bounty's" bible in the bottom of an old chest. They began to read it, and the power of God's Word reached into the hearts of these hardened men and changed their lives forever. They began to teach the children from the bible until every person on the island converted to Christianity. Today, with a population of less than fifty, every person on Pitcairn Island is a Christian.

The bible has the power to transform our lives, but for it to be effective a heart and mind open to God's grace and message is required.

Isaiah writes to a people who are in exile, a people who have tried to find prosperity through political alliances and trust in the gods of other nations. The prophet calls them to repent of their misbegotten allegiances and trust in the God who is enduringly faithful. God has not forgotten them

and does not punish them but invites them through the image of rain and snow to be open to what God is offering.

The refrain of the responsorial psalm, "the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest," is full of thanksgiving for blessings received from God which prepare the earth for a bountiful harvest.

The psalm serves as a prelude to the gospel parable of the sower, but this time along with the agricultural imagery there is a call

to open our hearts to receive God's word.

We are familiar with many of these biblical texts for we have heard them season after season, but can they take root in our hearts and call us to new life? Can the Word of God open our hearts to reflect on the circumstances of our lives to hear the familiar texts in ways that speak to our hearts and transform our lives.

No one would have expected the conversion of Ned Young and John Adams, but there was an unexpected conversion that brought them to share the good news with the children of the island. In St Paul's words, can we experience a new creation in our lives that helps us to live in hope, witness to the Good News by our lives, and work for a better world for all.

Michael A Kelly CSsR
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Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their
Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

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**

www.sfxballina.org.au

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Geoff Stanborough (*Warialda*), Thea Harper, Maria Potter, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Joe Byrne, Norm James **AND ALSO FOR:** Armando Bordin, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Kathleen Kelly, 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 ILL: John Heaton, Cheryl Felsch, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, Gloria Greguric, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (2 yrs), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dymphna Sheehy, Greg Shore, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, 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 placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Under the current restrictions a maximum of 45 people can be in the Church at any time. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: TBA

CONFIRMATION: TBA

RECONCILIATION: TBA.

WEDDINGS: In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

HOSPITAL: If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Ensure you have registered prior to attending Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
 - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
 - Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.
- **Sit on or between the two crosses (X) allocated in the pew** to comply with the required social distancing rules — two people to a pew (*families can sit together*). Please **do not** sit at the end of pews.
- 45 people maximum in Ballina Church and 20 people maximum at Lennox Head church at one time.
 - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
- Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
 - You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.

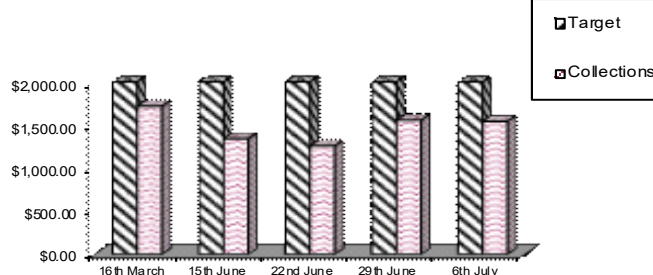
RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Church THANK YOU

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 (1st collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 580.15
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 132.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,542.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



DIF PAYS 1.10% 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

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 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 4.00 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

Parish Notices

PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS 2019/20 Tax receipts are now available for collection from the parish administration office ~ 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

2020/2021 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes that have not been collected from the back of the Church are now available from the Parish Reception Office.



BAPTISM: This week the parish warmly welcomes **Iggy Walter Whiting** son of Ben and Emma. We look forward to seeing the newly baptised and his family worshipping with us each weekend.

'CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME' RCIA CANDIDATE ~ CHELSEA GORMAN

Who has been received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Catholic faith.
Love and prayers from all the parish.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Thea Harper** who has passed away. Thea's private funeral has taken place.

****CHANGE OF DATE** CATECHISTS MEETING:** Upper Room, Parish Administration Building ~ **Tuesday 11th August - 10.00 am.** All Catechists and helpers are encouraged to attend. Morning tea available.



BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE

You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:
Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONFERENCE OF BALLINA 'THANK YOU'



On behalf of St Francis Xavier Conference, St Vincent de Paul Ballina, we wish to extend our gratitude for the very generous donations which we have received during the COVID-19 lockdown. During this period Vinnies continued to provide assistance to those in need via our virtual office. While we have not been able to provide full service, the volunteers who are on call, have worked exceptionally hard to assist people to the best of our abilities.

Firstly, I personally wish to thank those for their kind donations and secondly, the generosity of the Vinnies call team for their time and patience.

David Derrick, President of St Vincent de Paul Society, St Francis Xavier, Ballina.

REFLECTION: The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

© Dianne Bergant CSA Liturgy Help

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL—THE BROWN SCAPULAR

The scapular stands for:

- A commitment to follow Jesus, like Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. This commitment finds its origin in baptism.
- It leads into the community of Carmel, a community of religious men and women, which has existed in the Church for over eight centuries.
- It reminds us of the example of the saints of Carmel, with whom it establishes a close bond as brothers and sisters.
- It is an expression of the belief that the bearers of the scapular will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayers of Mary.

The Carmelites insist that the scapular is not:

- ▶ A magical charm to protect someone. An automatic guarantee of salvation. An excuse for not living up to the demands of the Christian life.

- ♦ **It is instead a sign which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and which stands for the decision to:** Follow Jesus like Mary: Be open to God and to his will. Be guided by faith, hope, and love. To pray at all times. To discover God present in all that happens around us.

www.catholicnewsagency.com



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Prayer of the Church: is held every Saturday at **9.00 am** St Francis Xavier Church

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

Ballina CCR Intercession Mondays from 10.45 to 11.45 am in the Anawim Room.

Prayer Meeting: Mondays 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room

Cenacle, Marian Movement of Priests ~ Ballina Cenacle if you would like to join this prayer group

Please contact the Parish Administration Office for further details 6681 1048



First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do'.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**

2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**

3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**

4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its

slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

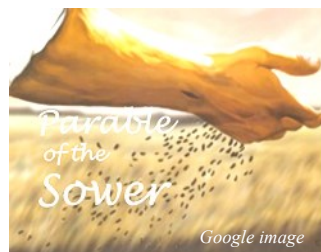
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9 (shorter version)*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away.

Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



The Gospel of the Lord.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. melbournecatholic.org.au

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS**

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 ensure you use your Planed Giving number as reference
- **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



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.