

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and emerging, the Bundjalung people.



**St Francis Xavier Church,**  
47 Cherry Street, Ballina

welcome

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

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**23rd July, 2023**

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY**

**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**

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY**  
**MASS 12.00 noon**

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

**Feast Days**

**St James, apostle**  
*Tuesday*

**Sts Joachim and Anne**  
*Wednesday*

**Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus**  
*Saturday*

*We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.*

### PARISH NOTICES

#### 'WELCOME'



**Missionaries of God's Love Sisters**  
**Therese, Teresa, Rachel and Isobel**  
**'Thank you' for being with us.**  
**Together with all ladies visiting our**  
**parish today for the**  
**2023 'Women's Reflection Day'.**



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY:** The next Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be **this Monday 24th June 2.00 pm**, Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street.  
Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.  
**You will be most Welcome!**



#### FEAST OF STS ANNE AND JOACHIM This Wednesday 26th July

Our parish would like to acknowledge Narelle Dewhurst and her staff at St Anne's for their ongoing care and education of so many young children within our community. We are privileged to have such a well run facility in our parish. **'HAPPY FEAST DAY' ST ANNES LONG DAY CARE CENTRE**

**PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS Saturday Evening Dinner in Lennox Head**  
Club Lennox 6.30 pm Saturday 29th July. No need to book ~ Everyone is welcome.

#### WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY TODAY SUNDAY, JULY 23rd, 2023



World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly  
2023

**"His mercy is from age to age"** (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope Francis proclaimed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July each year – July 23rd in 2023. The Day is marked near the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Parishes, schools, agencies, aged care facilities and other ministries are encouraged to find creative ways to celebrate the contribution of older people to their families and communities.

[www.catholic.org.au/](http://www.catholic.org.au/)

**SEASONAL ILLNESS AWARENESS:** Please continue to be mindful and respectful of each other and do not attend Mass if you are unwell or have any cold/flu-like symptoms. Any questions please contact the Parish Office on 6681 1048.



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

**PRESBYTERY:** Phone: 6686 2042  
**\*AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639\***

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

**SCHOOLS:**

**AGED CARE:**

**Administrator of Ballina Parish:** Father Peter Padsungay (long service leave)

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke (acting parish administrator)

**Deacon:** Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

**Pastoral Associate:** John Kearney Email: [john@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; Email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

**ROSTER: 17th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A: 29th/30th July, 2023**  
**Readings: 1Kings3:5,7-12; Psalm 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52**

	<b>Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>Sunday 9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Yvonne Head Peter Fear</i>	<i>Amanda Deeps Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Mark Biddle Annette Reen</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Madeline Pride</i>	<i>Gary Reen Denise Miller</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Renee Beglin, (*Central Coast, sister of Angela*), Todd Robinson (*Casino*), Peter Thurtell, George Pardon, Paolo Micallef (*Italy*), Inez Susanne Jones, Marj Hobbins,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Hilary Dwyer, Victoria Kennedy, Bill Anderson, Coralie Moreland

**AND ALSO FOR:** John Patrick Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, 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:** Louise King, Michael Lyons (*Sydney*), Bill Duffy, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*) Tanya White, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Aoife Stephenson (*Brisbane*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Auntie Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL*

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023**

<b>24th July</b>	<b>Monday 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Taizé SFX Church</b>
<b>24th July</b>	<b>Monday 2.00 pm</b>	<b>Crowley Auxiliary Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>25th July</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee Club</b>
<b>27th July</b>	<b>Thursday 12.30 to 3.30 pm</b> 	<b>'Christmas in July' Luncheon Crowley Activity Centre</b>
<b>29th July</b>	<b>Saturday 6.30 pm</b>	<b>Parishioner Dinner @ Club Lennox</b>
<b>6th August</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish 'Cuppa'</b>
<b>10th September</b>	<b>Sunday 12.00 noon</b> 	<b>Parish Spring Lunch Cherry Street Bowling Club</b>

**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**

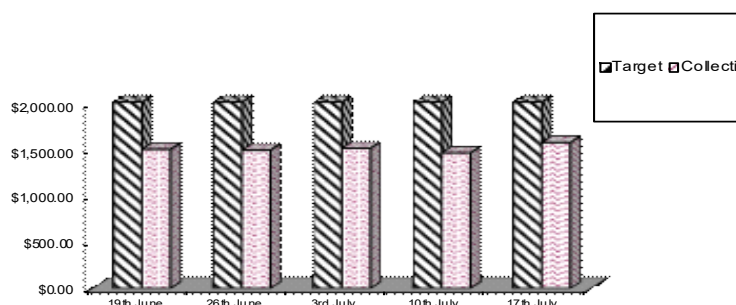
**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ \*\*1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION\*\*:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information.

- 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 ensure you *use your Planed Giving number as reference*, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

**DIF PAYS 3.70% PER ANNUM ~ EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST JULY 2023**  
**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](http://www.dif.org.au)

**THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 791.05
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 367.30
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,565.60
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



## GOD'S GOOD CROP



At first glance today's gospel seems to draw a clear distinction between the wheat as the good crop and the dandelion as the bad crop. The dandelion was sown by the enemy while everybody was asleep. It was regarded as a toxic crop to be weeded out.

Dandelion has an intoxicating effect, if consumed. In fact, its official name, "Lolium temulentum", comes from a Latin word for "drunk." In contrast, wheat is described as the good seed which sprouted and ripened. Indeed, Jesus describes it as a metaphor for his own self-giving love: that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

Yet, if the dandelion is indeed the bad crop, we might well ask ourselves why the farmer has decided to let both crops grow till the harvest? The answer to that question is that this parable, like all parables, reveals surprising truths about aspects of God. In this instance, it describes the mercy and love of God.

Here, God is not a ruthless farmer who is targeting the dandelion. Rather, God allows both wheat and dandelion to grow to the harvest. Each and everyone has the opportunity to return to God.

The Dominican theologian Herbert McCabe explains that we should not be deluded into thinking that, if you are sorry for your sins, God will come and forgive you, that he will be touched by your appeal, change his mind about you and forgive you. McCabe would have us understand that the truth is, instead, that God never changes his mind about you. God is simply in love with you. What he does again and again is change your mind about him. You are not forgiven because you confess your sins. You come to celebrate that your sins are forgiven.

Today's psalm describes God's mercy and compassion. It speaks of a God who is "abounding in love and truth" (Psalm 85:15). John Duns Scotus, the 13th century Franciscan theologian, similarly believed that God did not enter human history because Adam and Eve had sinned; rather, God became man because he loved humanity so much, he desired to be one with us.

In the midst of our struggles, God takes the initiative and draws near to us. The second reading describes how "the Spirit comes to help us on our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words" (Romans 8:26).

We are called to an awareness that God loves us immensely and to respond to God's love and fulfil our destiny as flourishing beings, nourished in the rich soil of God's compassion and mercy.

Sophie Clements  
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**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY 'WINTER APPEAL'** Envelopes can be placed on the Mass collection plates, or dropped into the Parish Admin Office or the Vinnies shop front in Martin Street. **'Every \$ counts.'** **Thank you.**



**ST ANNE'S LONG DAY CARE CENTRE, SKENNARS HEAD URGENTLY** seeking Early Childhood Educators to work full time or part-time. Please contact Narelle Dewhurst – 6687 5961 or email: [narelle@stannesldcc.org.au](mailto:narelle@stannesldcc.org.au)



## CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

### 'CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON'

THIS Thursday 27th July ~

Crowley Activity Centre 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Tickets include: Christmas style Lunch and Dessert.

1 x entry into the lucky door prize and live entertainment.



## ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH SPRING LUNCH

Sunday 10th September, 2023 ~

Cherry Street Bowling Club, Ballina

12.00 for 12.30 pm

\$20.00 pp

Roast Meal, sweets, tea/coffee.

Tickets on sale from next weekend following each Mass, and from the Parish Office

Drinks from the bar not included in ticket price.



**The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office.** If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



**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

**Marian Cenacle:** Every Monday at 11.00 am—Anawim Room, Parish Admin Centre, Narelle King Phn 6681 1048

**Taizé:** Beginning Monday 10th July SFX Church 12.00 noon every fortnight following

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 11.00 am Friday  
**Sisterhood:** Monday 11.00 am St Teresa Room Parish Admin Centre.

**Prayer of the Church & Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church.

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

**Welcome to our prayer gatherings.**



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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.



**First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19;***A reading from the book of Wisdom*

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God. **(R.)**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27;***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God. *The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Matt 13:24-30***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 25th, July ~ FEAST OF ST JAMES, APOSTLE**

**Entrance Antiphon:** As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother mending their nets and he called them.

**Communion Antiphon:** They drank the chalice of the Lord, and became the friends of God.

**WEDNESDAY 26th July ~ FEAST OF STS JOACHIM AND ANNE**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let us praise Joachim and Anne, to whom, in their generation, the Lord gave him who was a blessing for all the nations.

**Communion Antiphon:** They received blessings from the Lord and mercy from God their Saviour.

**THURSDAY 27th AND FRIDAY 28th July**

**Entrance Antiphon:** See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him

**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL**

**DID YOU KNOW?** • Darnel is an annual grass commonly found in grain fields as a weed. When it first shoots it looks very much like wheat.

• There are echoes in this gospel of the final judgment when the good will be separated from the bad, the sheep from the goats, the weeds from the harvest.

• The Jewish faith has a profound respect for the name of God and the holy name is never pronounced or even written in full. The Gospel of Matthew is the most Jewish of the Gospels and characteristically always refers to the kingdom of heaven rather than the kingdom of God.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:** \*Alexander Solzhenitsyn recalls, 'Gradually I came to realise that the line that separates good from evil passes not between nations, nor between classes of people, nor between political parties—but right through every human heart.' Do you agree with this estimation of where evil originates? If this is true, how can evil be confronted or challenged? Share your reflections.

• Identify some of the positive and negative aspects of your character or personality. How do you deal with the less attractive side of yourself?

• Identify some of the positive and negative aspects we see in our own society. How can we foster what is good and discourage what is not?

Say the Lord's Prayer slowly each day this week and reflect on ways you can help to build the kingdom:

*Thy kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven**www.cam.org.au/summit*