

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.

**17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)**

30th July, 2023

**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

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Feast Days

St Alphonsus Liguori
Tuesday

St Dominic
Thursday

St John Vianney
Friday

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM: Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Ziggy Blue, Kai Andy and Minnie May Sailer** children of Carl and Nicole.

'WELCOME' 2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

This week there are *'Prayer for me'* cards in baskets on the altar. Parishioners are asked to take a card and pray for that candidate whose name is inscribed on it.

*We welcome each candidate and their family to
our weekend Masses.*

*Children of our parish will receive their
First Holy Communion on Sunday 20th August
in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.*

*9.00 am Mass Holy Family School Candidates
11.00 am St Francis Xavier School Candidates*



PARISH 'CUPPA' : NEXT Sunday 6th August following the 9.00 am Mass, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier, Church.

Everyone is very welcome



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. Lucky Door prize.
*Tickets on sale from this weekend following each Mass, and
from the Parish Office, where eftpos payments can be made.
Drinks from the bar not included in ticket price.*



SINGERS WANTED to learn Taize songs for the new Taize group.
Ability to sing parts would be good, but not essential.
Please leave your name and telephone number at the Parish
office—6681 1048. 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

PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS 2022/23 Tax receipts are available for collection from the parish office.

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

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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: Transfiguration of the Lord, Year A: 5th/6th August, 2023
Readings: Daniel 7:9-10,13-14; Psalm 96; 2Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Mick Vella Pauline Fingleton</i>	<i>Mark McDonald Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Julie McKinnon Wendy Hughes</i>	<i>Maxine Cole Warwick Manning</i>
EMOHC	<i>Kristie Coster</i>	<i>Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Gary Reen Denise Miller</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Mary Goss Ron Hughes</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rosa Lowe (*Sydney*), Renee Beglin, (*Central Coast*), Todd Robinson, Peter Thurtell, George Pardon,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Coralie Moreland, Jeremy Warwarek, John O'Lachlan, Gerry Mergan

AND ALSO FOR: *Marj Hobbins, 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, *Aunt* 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 Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

1st August	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
6th August	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish 'Cuppa'
7th August	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé SFX Church
20th August	Sunday 9.00 am 11.00 am	First Holy Communion Sunday
10th September	Sunday 12.00 noon 	Parish Spring Lunch Cherry Street Bowling Club

- Happy Moments, **Praise God**
- Difficult Moments, **Seek God**
- Quiet Moments, **Worship God**
- Painful Moments, **Trust God**
- Every Moment, **Thank God**

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.

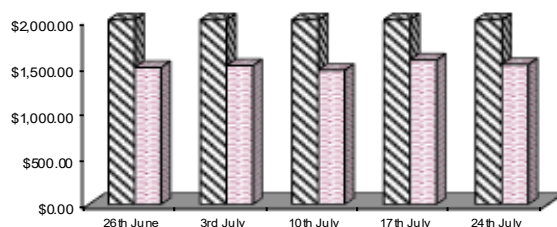
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 *ref: your name*
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier 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

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>	\$ 941.45
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 481.40
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,517.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00





HEAVEN IS A PEARL WORTH PURSUING

Much like today, different gods and life philosophies were plentiful in the ancient Roman world. They were like different pearls, available for people to pick and choose which they liked and wanted to keep. However, say you had come across a pearl greater in its beauty and purity than all of the others you had seen, one so valuable it required you to discard all the rest to obtain it. There's a sense of urgency in the decision too. A pearl this valuable, like treasure found in a field, will not remain available like this for long. Looking at it, you know you must decide quickly while it is still available.

Would it be worth it to you?

When Jesus talks about the 'kingdom of heaven' or the 'kingdom of God' being like a pearl of great price, he's referring to the value of the new way of living available through him.

As St Paul explains in today's second reading, the kingdom of heaven is not just about eternal life. It is primarily about being shaped to become like Jesus, including in the here and now. We share Jesus' wisdom, his capacity to love others and his relationship with the Father. We live with Christ's life, we become moulded to his ways, and we take on Christ's whole way of being as our own.

The imagery offered by the parables in today's gospels describes the right response to finding the kingdom of heaven, which is to give up everything else that has value in order to pursue it. Whether it costs us success, security, pleasure, or the respect of others, the kingdom of heaven is worth the very highest price.

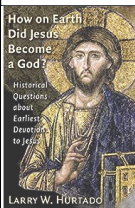
St Matthew understands how the kingdom of heaven can change a person. Not only has he given up everything, including riches and security, for the kingdom of heaven but, in attaining it, he is like the head of a household who can welcome others into the kingdom and give its treasures away.

However, there is no understanding of the kingdom of heaven as Jesus describes it without a life-changing commitment to stay on its course.

As our first reading explains, King Solomon, at the start of his life, found this pearl of great price and placed it at the very centre of his life. Solomon disregarded offers of health, wealth and security and instead prized knowing the heart and mind of God. However, as the books of Kings go on to document, the wealth and life of pleasure drew Solomon's focus away from the wisdom he once prized above everything.

The life on offer from God gives us meaning and joy. It offers us a life where "all things work for good for those who love God." It is worth it to cast everything aside to attain it.

Joseph Doyle
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BOOK CLUB

Deacon Anthony is starting a theological book club and is looking forward for interested people to sign up as participants and hosts. Its like a regular book club in that we rotate hosts but instead of a book per month it is a chapter per month of a book. Deacon Anthony facilitates the group discussion. The first book is by Larry Hurtado, *'How on Earth did Jesus become God?'*, it's fascinating. We plan to start Thursday 7th September at 7.30 pm. Leave your name, phone and email at the parish office 6681 1048. **All are invited.**

THE VOICE—YES 2023 ~ The Australian Catholic Bishops and the Plenary Council of Australia endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which includes the voice to parliament. We want to have sessions to help us become informed about the voice and pray through the questions. We consider why the bishops and others support a yes vote and work toward a yes vote. Come along if you think you might vote yes, no or you are not sure. We will have a first meeting in the parish centre Tuesday 22nd August, 7.30 pm and plan from there. Leave your name, phone and email contact with the parish office 6681 1048. All are welcome. *Deacon Anthony.*

Adult Faith Formation: Are you wanting to enrich your faith? The Diocese continues its partnership with the *Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)* at the University of Dayton, Ohio, with access to over 100 courses. Three and five-week courses are available at a subsidised cost (\$US40 or \$US50). Registrations for Cycle 6 Courses are now open. Close on August 23rd.

[See Course offerings for Cycle 6.](#) [The schedule for 2023 is out now.](#)

If anyone is interested in pursuing any listed courses or wishes to organise a 'closed' course, please contact Tony Worner at VLCFF.LismoreDiocese@stagnesparish.org.au.

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



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: Every second Monday SFX Church 12.00 noon

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 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: 1Kings 3:5,7-12;*A reading from the first book of Kings*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Lord, I Love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**

2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**

3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**

4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

*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 13:44-52***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 1st August ~ FEAST OF ALPHONSUS**

Entrance Antiphon: I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord, will be their God.

Communion Antiphon: It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST ~ FEAST OF ST DOMINIC

Entrance Antiphon: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

Communion Antiphon: This is the steward, faithful and prudent, whom the Lord set over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.

FRIDAY 4th AUGUST ~ FEAST OF ST JOHN VIANNEY

Entrance Antiphon: Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen, I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all his property.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL**MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

- Share a story of a goal you had and the striving that was needed to achieve it. How did you feel when the goal was reached? How did you feel if the goal was not achieved?
- What have you given up in order to follow Christ?
- What are you prepared to give up?
- How do you understand being a disciple of the kingdom of heaven?
- What are the things that are most precious to you? Does this gospel challenge your attitude to them?

This week, treasure those things and people who are precious to you in special ways. Jesus asks the disciples, 'Have you understood all these things?' Ponder your own understanding of the mystery of faith and how you are coming closer to it. Pray for the strength and understanding you need to continue the journey towards the treasure