

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.**

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

26th 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 Martha
Wednesday**

**St Ignatius of Loyola
Friday**

**St Alphonsus Liguori
Saturday**

God in our lives

The first reading of the liturgy tells of the story of King Solomon asking God for wisdom. This is the treasure we are looking for – the wisdom of the kingdom of God. In Matthew's gospel today, Jesus invites us to think about our efforts in promoting God's kingdom. Are we really trying our best to find God in our lives?

The parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl present the different ways of receiving the kingdom into our lives. In the first parable, the man finds the treasure accidentally while working in the field. In the second parable, the merchant has been spending a lifetime desperately searching for the one really great pearl. He knows what he is looking for. Both men are filled with great joy when they find the treasures and they do whatever it takes to keep them.

In these parables, Jesus is asking whether we are making God our priority? Can we sacrifice other things for the sake of the kingdom? God comes to us in different ways. We can find God in surprising situations; an experience of happiness, love, conversion, spiritual transformation, a life lived in depth. We need to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to keep this experience, sell everything to buy it. We may have to spend a lifetime finding God. But if we persevere, we will certainly find God.

The values of the kingdom of God are not limited to time and space. It is a state of life that God is calling us to. It is worth struggling and searching for. Jesus urges us to act to gain the kingdom while the opportunity presents. God's presence among us is ultimately mysterious and can't be limited to any one human explanation.

Like Solomon in the First Reading, we need the gift of discerning judgement to be able to find where God is in our lives. Sometimes, we would like God's presence to be clearer, so that God will appear, show us the way through life and make all our problems and anxieties disappear. That is too easy and does not allow us to grow. God wants us to win our spurs. We are to live out the unique gift of life God has given to each one of us, and through that living, to deepen our special and personal relationship with God.

We are to be involved in the struggle of life in all its challenging mixture of good and evil. But despite our occasional fears to the contrary, we are not alone. We have the presence of God living in and through us. We can take confidence from Paul's words to the Romans that even when we lose our way, we are reassured that God is there, turning everything to our good.

Anthony Tran CSsR
@Majellan 2020



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, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Bill Shay, Bill Anderson, Coralie Moreland, **AND ALSO FOR:** James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, George Paden, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, 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: Pat Evans (*Melbourne*), Greg Campbell, June Ianna, 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, (*Auntie*) 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, Dymrna 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 Kolbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *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.

ANOIDING 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.

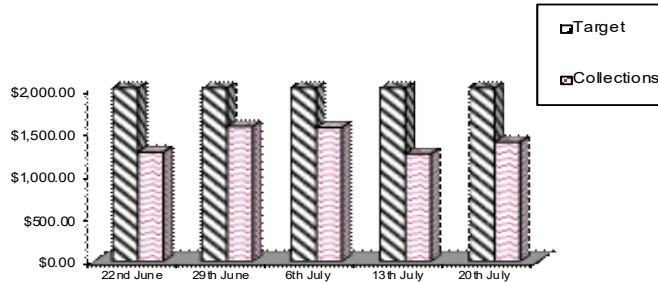
RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Church THANK YOU

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	\$ 460.80
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 31.40
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,373.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



DIF PAYS 0.90% PER ANNUM AS OF 15TH JULY, 2020

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.

*****CANCELLED CATCHISTS MEETING*****
(was set down for Tuesday 11th August).



This year the **Feast of Sts Anne and Joachim** falls on Sunday (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.



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**



BAPTISM: This week the parish warmly welcomes **Kieran and Gabriel Dacey** sons of David and Geeta. We look forward to seeing the newly baptised and their family worshipping with us each weekend.

REFLECTION: Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

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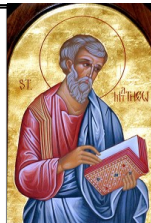


St. Ignatius Loyola was born in 1491, one of 13 children of a family of minor nobility in northern Spain. As a young man Ignatius Loyola was inflamed by the ideals of courtly love and knighthood and dreamed of doing great deeds.

But in 1521 Ignatius was gravely wounded in a battle with the French. While recuperating, Ignatius Loyola experienced a conversion. Reading the lives of Jesus and the saints made Ignatius happy and aroused desires to do great things. Ignatius realized that these feelings were clues to God's direction for him.

Over the years, Ignatius became expert in the art of spiritual direction. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book the *Spiritual Exercises*, one of the most influential books on the spiritual life ever written. With a small group of friends, Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. Ignatius conceived the Jesuits as "contemplatives in action." This also describes the many Christians who have been touched by Ignatian spirituality.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-voices/st-ignatius-loyola/>



GOSPEL OF ST MATTHEW CHAPTER 13

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

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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 9.30 am to 10.30 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: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*A reading from the first book of the 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: Matthew 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.



Liturgy Help © 2020

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 mindwww.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.