

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.

18th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)

2nd August, 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 Dominic
Monday

St John Vianney
Tuesday

The Transfiguration
of the Lord
Thursday

St Mary of the Cross
Saturday

Does God answer our prayers?

During the devastating bushfires Australia suffered this past summer, lives were lost and many homes and flora and fauna were destroyed.

Amid this destruction, many people turned to prayer, petitioning God for relief and rescue. In this respect, today's readings offer comfort in the form of a reassurance that God's love is enduring. Paul goes so far as to reassure his Roman congregants that "nothing can separate us" from the love of God made visible in Christ – "neither death, nor life," no matter how bad things may appear in the present or future. The Psalmist similarly reassures the Israelites that "the Lord is near to all who call upon him".

But others may not be comforted by these words of encouragement and hope. Such people are tempted to reject the notion that prayer can be efficacious. For many caught between these two reactions, there is a real crisis of faith that prompts deep questioning about the nature of our relationship with God.

Does God care that we are suffering? Why did God not prevent these terrible fires? Does God answer our prayers for help?

There is no easy response to these questions. The stark reality of the recent devastation suggests that God does not answer our prayers for immediate and direct intervention. The key to unlocking this conundrum is found in today's gospel.

At the end of long day of preaching and teaching, the disciples ask Jesus to send the

hungry crowds home so that they can eat and rest. Jesus responds by telling his disciples to minister to their needs out of their own resources.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the devastating fires was the overwhelming charity and support offered to those affected by their fellow citizens and by people from across the globe. Volunteers rushed to help; community organisations partnered with governments to offer sustenance and practical care. People across the world united to

agitate for change in our relationship with nature.

The impetus for this response comes from the values and morals of a society that has shaped over millennia by the Judeo-Christian tradition, which stresses the central importance of building societies based on a respect for human dignity, justice, and charity.

God may not always answer our prayers by acting directly or even miraculously to avert an immediate threat to our lives. But God has acted and continues to act pre-emptively through inspiration and revelation to shape and build a capacity for charity and love into the hearts of humans and human societies.

God respects both the integrity of human beings and the integrity of natural processes. God works in and through those two processes, the human and the natural, to bring about tangible change in our relationships with one another and with nature.

Ian J Elmer
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Liturgy Help © 2020

Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship .

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: Sr Cathy Dean rsj, Geoff Stanborough, Thea Harper,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Victoria Kennedy, Gerry Mergan,

AND ALSO FOR: James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: Barbara Smith, 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, (*Aunts*) 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, Dympna 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, *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.

ANOINTING 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.

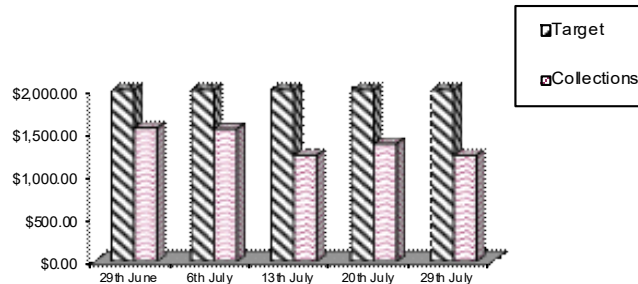
RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Churches THANK YOU

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	\$ 287.25
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 61.20
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,236.15
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

2020/2021 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please be aware that the envelopes collected for this financial year have been printed in the opposite colours to past years and to what we are accustomed to using.

RED IS NOW 'PLANNED GIVING' AND BLUE IS FOR THE 'CLERGY COLLECTION'.

Please contact the Parish Office if you need to be assured of your pledge, for the month of July. Phone 6681 1048 or visit the Administration Office between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

VATICAN CALLS FOR RENEWAL OF PARISH LIFE ~ Published: 21st July 2020 'Cath News'

The Vatican has issued a new instruction on the renewal of parish life, urging parishes to abandon "outdated" models and to embrace what Pope Francis has styled as a spirit of "missionary evangelisation". *Source: Crux.*

Among other things, the guidelines caution priests not to "commercialise" the sacraments by charging fees, and they stipulate that financial difficulties within a diocese are not a legitimate reason for closing down parishes.

Titled "The Pastoral Conversion of the parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church," the new guidelines, released yesterday, are an "instruction" meaning they are a set of non-binding suggestions for the renewal of parish life.

Issued by the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, the new guidelines "represent a valuable opportunity for pastoral conversion that is essentially missionary."

"Parish communities," they say, "will find herein a call to go out of themselves, offering instruments for reform, even structural, in a spirit of communion and collaboration, of encounter and closeness, of mercy and solicitude for the proclamation of the Gospel."

While led by a priest, a parish is a community and as such, any changes made must be done in consultation with the parishioners, the instruction said. The instruction stressed that the pastor is the head of his parish, and that his tasks cannot be assigned to a group of priests or laypeople, meaning that titles such as "team leader," which imply joint governance of a parish, "are to be avoided".

Prayer for St. Jude's Intercession

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honours and invokes you universally as the patron of hope. Please intercede on our behalf. Make use of that particular privilege given to you to bring hope, comfort, and help where they are needed most. Come to our assistance in this great need that we may receive the consolation and help of heaven as we work with our challenges, **particularly stopping the 2nd wave spread of COVID-19 in Australia.** We praise God with you and all the saints forever. We promise, blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favour, to always honour you as our special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.

<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/saints-for-healing>.



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**

*****CANCELLED CATECHIST MEETING***
(was scheduled for Tuesday 11th August).**

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



ST MARY OF THE CROSS FEAST DAY THIS SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

SFX Parish would like to wish Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj and all the Sisters of St Joseph, a very happy feast day.

'Thank you' Sr Kathryn for your many contributions to our Parish life.



MARY MACKILLOP TODAY ~ Our Story Through Mary MacKillop Today the vision of Australia's first Saint and of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, is being realised.

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we work in partnership to help create generational change through the teaching of practical life skills to women, men and children in Australia and beyond.

Mary MacKillop's influence in Australia today, and beyond, is palpable.

Dioceses celebrate her as their Patron; schools, aged care homes and ministries for the vulnerable proudly bear her name, and the work of the congregation she co-founded extends across the globe.

In 1867, her co-founder, Fr Julian Tenison Woods wrote that the Sisters were to: "Do all the good they can and never see an evil without trying how they may remedy it. ... This is their mission... The religious must do any good that they can...and make their charity all-embracing."

It is in the spirit of that guiding principle that Mary MacKillop Today was born.

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/who-we-are/our-story/

IRISH BLESSING

**'You are the peace of all things calm,
You are the place to hide from harm.
You are the light that shines in dark,
You are the heart's eternal spark.
You are the door that's open wide,
You are the guest who waits inside.
You are the light, the truth, the way,
You are my Saviour this very day.'**



www.theworkofgod.org

Celtic Blessing from the First Millennium
www.irishblessings.com

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: Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to
eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 8:35,;37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecut-
ed, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or
even attacked. These are the trials through which we
triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no
angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to
come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any cre-
ated thing, can ever come between us and the love of
God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where
they could be by themselves. But the people heard of
this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot.
So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he
took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and
said, "This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped
by; so send the people away, and they can go to the
villages to buy themselves some food." Jesus replied,
"There is no need for them to go: give them some-
thing to eat yourselves." But they answered, "All we
have with us is five loaves and two fish." "Bring them
here to me," he said. He gave orders that the people
were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five
loaves and the two fish, raised his
eyes to heaven and said the
blessing. And breaking the loaves
he handed them to his disciples
who gave them to the crowds.
They all ate as much as they
wanted, and they collected the
scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate
numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing
of women and children.



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

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.