

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.**

**19th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)**

13th August, 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, WEDNESDAY
& FRIDAY**
MASS 12.00 noon
NO MASS OR
LITURGY
THURSDAY 17th AUGUST

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Days

St Maximilian Mary Kolbe
Monday

**The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
Tuesday
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass 12.00 noon

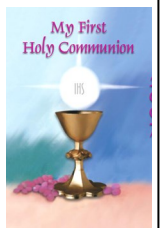
We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

FEAST DAY
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
THIS TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST
MASS 12.00 NOON



**‘WELCOME’ 2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**
We welcome each candidate and their family to
our weekend Masses.
Children of our parish will receive their
First Holy Communion Next Sunday 20th August
in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.
9.00 am Mass Holy Family School Candidates
11.00 am Mass St Francis Xavier School Candidates



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.
Meals for children provided at \$10.00 per child.
Family groups most welcome.
Tickets to be purchased by Monday 4th September
to assist with catering.

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



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY
The next Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be
Monday 28th August 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!
Please note the change of time to 2.00 pm for the winter months.

SINGERS WANTED to learn Taize songs for the 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.**

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: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 19th/20th August, 2023
Readings: Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Bryan Marriott John Jarzynski</i>	<i>Emma McFadden Jean Mackay</i>	<i>First Holy Communion Sunday</i>	<i>First Holy Communion Sunday</i>
EMOHC	<i>Peter Bowen</i>	<i>Mark McDonald</i>	<i>First Holy Communion Sunday</i>	<i>First Holy Communion Sunday</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>First Holy Communion</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:


Anzac Cummings OAM, Vince Kean (*Murwillumbah*), Rosa Lowe, Renee Beglin,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Maureen Donovan, Isley Smith, Bev Foley, Jack Chapman, Kevin Doherty, Aurelia Gardiman,

AND ALSO FOR: *Bryan Donovan, 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: Kaysie Arnadall, 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, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunty* 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*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

15th August	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
20th August	Sunday 9.00 am 11.00 am	First Holy Communion Sunday
21st August	Monday 12.00 noon	Taize
26th August	Saturday 6.30 pm	Parishioner Dinner @ Club Lennox
28th August	Monday 2.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
7th September	Thursday 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Wine & Cheese afternoon @ Crowley
10th September	Sunday 12.00 noon <i>Tickets on sale after each weekend Mass and weekdays from Parish Admin Office.</i>	Parish Spring Lunch Cherry Street Bowling Club 

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.

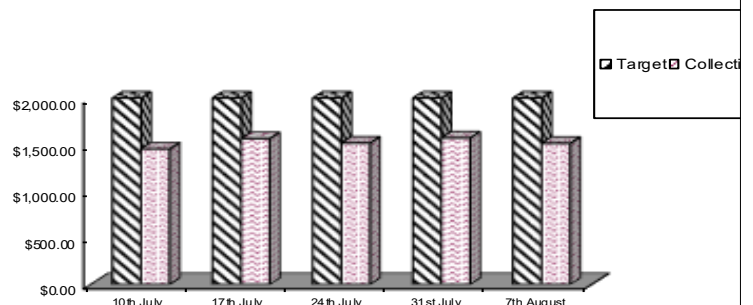
- **By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- **By making an EFTPOS donation — 1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name**
- **2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218**
- **Please ensure you use your *Planned 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>	\$ 856.00
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 493.00
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,514.70
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00





Where is God: We are told in the Catechism that “God is everywhere”. However, the question of how God reveals the divine presence to each of us – how God becomes real for us, or speaks to us – is not so simple. In today’s first reading, the prophet Elijah is told to go to the mountain so he will see the Lord passing by. However, Elijah only experiences earthquake, wind and fire which do not reveal the Lord to him. Then, after this failure to see or find God, Elijah experiences the presence of the Lord in the “still small voice of a gentle breeze”. This voice of God, which Elijah hears in his heart and soul, calls on him to set out from the mountain to become the Lord’s spokesperson. Elijah sets out and meets Elisha who becomes his fellow disciple in promoting the Lord’s covenant with the people of Israel.

In today’s gospel story, Peter comes to believe in Jesus as ‘the Son of God’ through the experience of almost drowning. Like so many of us, Peter is a person of ‘little faith’ who meets the God of Jesus in a situation of distress. Peter is fishing when he sees a ‘ghost’ walking towards him on the water. But the ghost turns out to be Jesus telling the disciples not to be afraid. So, Peter, following Jesus’ invitation to come to him across the water, begins to do so before the winds arrive and he begins to sink, crying out “Lord, save me!”

Jesus stretches out his hands to catch Peter before chastising him: “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Peter and the disciples then cry out together: “Truly you are the Son of God”.

The question then becomes, how God speaks to us in our daily lives? As with Elijah and Peter, we may find ourselves searching for the voice of God in the wrong places, or without sufficient trust. Moreover, it is especially when we are in situations of challenge and distress that the Lord may pierce our defences to tell us not to be afraid, but to believe in his divine forgiveness, love and mercy.

Our contemporary secular culture has been described as a culture where ‘God has gone missing’. So many people appear to be able to live without any notion of God. But we should not think this is a particularly modern issue. The prophet Isaiah speaks of “a God who lies *hidden*” (45:12); for St Paul, Christ is “the image of the *unseen* God” (Col. 1:15). Indeed, St Augustine tells us “if we think we understand God, it is not God we understand”.

So, we are left with the paradox that, while ‘God is everywhere’ – present in every created reality – this God is always present as Mystery. There is no human experience from which God is absent. Yet, our faith is constantly tested, like Elijah and Peter, that we may find the God of Jesus Christ in places we may least expect.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2023



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



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY invite you to a **WINE & CHEESE AFTERNOON** at Crowley Activity Centre on Thursday 7th September from 3.00 to 4.30 pm—\$25.00 per person includes share cheese platters with wine or soft drink. Live music will be on hand for your enjoyment.

BALLINA CATHOLIC CHURCH MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST ~ TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

7.30 am—9.00 am ~ Crowley Activity Centre ~ \$25.00 pp ~ Buffet Style Breakfast

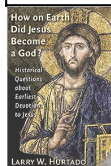
For catering purposes please register by Friday 8th September at Crowley 1300 139 099

Payment can be made at Crowley Reception on the day or visit Crowley in office hours 8.30 am—5.00 pm



POSITION AVAILABLE—CCD DIRECTOR—LISMORE DIOCESE

Reporting to the Bishop of the Diocese of Lismore, the Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)/SRE Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the compliance of the Diocese of Lismore as an Authorised Provider in relation to Catechists teaching in NSW Public Schools. The Director implements Child Protection training, classroom management, curriculum and training courses, manages authorisation and verification of Working with Children Checks. Working in this role, you have the option of working anywhere in the Diocese. If you would like more information, please ring Marijo Bradley on 6621 9444. Applications close Monday 21st August 2023 or submit your resume to mbradley@lismore.catholic.org.au



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 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

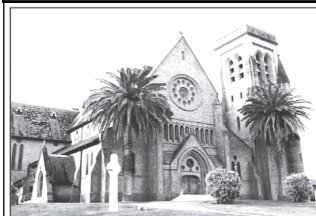
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

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 19:9, 11-13;
A reading from the first book of the Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my

brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST~ FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Entrance Antiphon: A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Communion Antiphon: All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

WEDNESDAY 16TH ~ FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST

Entrance Antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Communion Antiphon: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

DID YOU KNOW?

- For the Hebrew people, the waters of the sea are a symbol of the chaos from which creation sprang. Never having been a seafaring people, they were fearful of the watery deep.
- Even today, storms can blow up on the Sea of Galilee very quickly and make it dangerous for boats out on the lake.
- In art, the Church is often represented as a boat. A boat carries its passengers through threatening waters but is not exempt from the turbulence of storms. The Church can bear us through the storms of life but it does not exempt us from the stresses and struggles.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- What storms have you experienced in your life which have caused fear or confusion?
- What doubts and fears make you waver in your journey to Christ? How do you experience the calming action of Jesus?
- Describe to others in the group a period in your life when you felt you were 'going under'.

What or who was it that kept you afloat?

- Try to calm the fears of others this week in your family or workplace.
- Once again we see Jesus withdrawing alone to pray. The example of Jesus in quiet prayer can be a pointer to us in how to pray. As a Church we pray communally, but quiet reflection is also important. Take time this week to reflect alone.

The disciples cry out to Jesus in their distress, 'Lord, save me'.

This week, allow yourself to hear Jesus' answer:

Courage! Do not be afraid.