

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the 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.**

**1st Sunday of Advent
Year B**

29th November, 2020



**Parish Weekend Mass
Times**

**St Francis Xavier Church
Ballina (92 people)**

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm
Sunday — 9.00 am
Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Holy Family Church
Lennox Head (35 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 12.00 noon

WEEKDAY MASS:

**At St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY to FRIDAY
12 noon (92 people)**

Please register with Parish Office

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

Feasts

**St Andrew, apostle
Monday**

**St Francis Xavier
Thursday**

Living in the time of waiting

When COVID-19 began to impact negatively on all aspects of our lives, we questioned when the situation would turn around for the better. We heard a lot of predictions but, in reality, no one knew when the pandemic would end. And we still don't.

Today, we begin the Advent journey of waiting for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. In today's gospel Jesus speaks of a man who travels abroad, leaving his servants in charge, warning them to stay awake, always prepared and ready for his return. Jesus reminds us that we should stay awake, ready for his return: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

So, we await the coming of the Lord. But no one knows when it is going to happen. This should not frighten or confuse us. Our faith tells us that the Lord will come and he will come unexpectedly. During his earthly life, Jesus showed us that God is all loving and merciful, faithful to His people and to His promises. So, we wait in readiness and with a sure hope and joyful expectation for the Lord's coming.

The pandemic and other struggles we encounter day-to-day might lead us sometimes to doubt and question the presence of God in our lives and our world. It is sometimes especially hard to wait for the Lord's coming while we are facing the fear and the difficul-

ties life brings. But the first coming of the Saviour – as a babe, born like us and sharing in our human experience, its joys and its sorrows – assures us that our faith and our hope for his return is well-founded.

Jesus left us with a simple commandment, yet a challenging one. "Love God and love your neighbour." It really is as simple – and as difficult – as that.

The length of the period of waiting for his coming does not matter, but the quality of our discipleship does matter. We are called to live "the time of waiting" by loving and placing our trust in God, and by caring for one another - especially the poor, needy and vulnerable in our world - and for the whole of God's creation.

But we must stay awake! We do not know the time, but we must prepare and be ready for his coming! This is vital. We can be sure, through it all, that God cares for us and continues to love us. The Holy Spirit, our advocate, guides and teaches us to live the life of discipleship to which we are called as followers of Jesus, our Saviour.

Let us be joyful and join with Saint Paul by saying, "I never stop thanking God for all the graces we have received through Jesus Christ."

Redempt Jawa CSsR
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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
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

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

Parish Youth Group Coordinator: Amelia Kearney

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: Father John Fitz-Walter, Shane O'Brien (Sydney), Paul Brady, Lois Wunsch, Edna Elvos, David Puglisi, Clare McFadden,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Donna Biddle, Joanne Wunsch

AND ALSO FOR: *Glorie Kelly, Fay Kerslake, 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: Greg Sutherland (*New Zealand*), Peter Podgorczyk, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans (*6 weeks old*), Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, Pauline McLachlan, 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, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Darryl Simpkins, 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, 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*

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 92 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 crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules — three/four people to a pew (*families can sit together*).
- 92 people maximum in Ballina Church and 35 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.



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

MASKS: It is recommended by State Government and endorsed by Bishop Greg to wear a mask while at Mass.

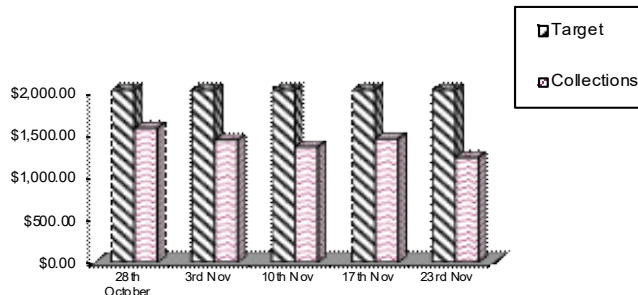
RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Churches THANK YOU

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	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 475.40
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 189.35
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,215.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM from 1st December, 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

PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.


 **BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Remi John Pollard** son of Cameron and Alice


 **ADVENT WREATH**
Lighting 1st Candle
PRIEST: Lord Jesus you bring the promise of salvation.
PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US
PRIEST: Lord Jesus you will come again in glory and power
PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US
PRIEST: Lord Jesus you are our guide and our Light
PEOPLE: COME AND AWAKEN US


CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS
5.30 pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
6.00 pm – Xavier Catholic College, Magis Hall, 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head *with Children's Liturgy*
7.30 pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
8.00 pm – Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
CHRISTMAS DAY
7.30 am – Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
9.00 am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
11.00 am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.
Registrations are now being taken phone the Parish Administration Office on 6681 1048 or email: admin@sfxballina.org.au for your preferred Mass.


 **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

Dear Parishioners, I would like to introduce myself - my name is Kevin Lewis and I am the new Principal at Xavier Catholic College for 2021. Michael Vella has been a long-term mentor and friend of mine and he has gifted me an amazing school. I thank him for his faith-filled dedication to the College and the Parish. I feel so blessed to step into a role surrounded by a committed staff, aspirational students and a supportive local community. I have been teaching/leading school communities for over 25 years across the mid-north coast within the Diocese of Lismore and currently hold the position of Principal at St Paul's Catholic Secondary College in Kempsey. I have been here for 9 wonderful years. I will be moving to Ballina/Skenners/Lennox or surrounds with my wife Gaye. My children, Alexandra, Benjamin and Nicholas have concluded school and are working/studying in London, Sydney and Sydney. The welcome I have received to date has been overwhelming and I am very excited to meet and become part of this beautiful parish community. I look forward to meeting you all. I am drawn to the words of St Ignatius and hope that I can emulate the sentiment therein:
"To give, and not to count the cost
to fight, and not to heed the wounds,
to toil, and not to seek for rest,
to labour, and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do thy will"
– St. Ignatius of Loyola
I am excited to commence my service as Principal at the College, to join with the parish community and to do justice to the faith shown in me by Father Peter and our Director Dr Sally Towns.
Kind Regards,
Kevin Lewis

 **UNABLE TO ATTEND MASS WOULD YOU LIKE HOLY COMMUNION AT YOUR HOME?** Father Anselm is offering to take Holy Communion to those in our Parish who are unable to attend a weekday Mass or Sunday Mass. This will be available on Mondays between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving Holy Communion please ring the Parish Admin Centre on 6681 1048. Due to the uncertainty of the duration of the pandemic and people missing their Sacraments, Father Anselm is hoping to reach these parishioners.

 **ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**
Ballina Conference 'JESSE TREE'
The Society will be distributing **FOOD VOUCHERS** to needy people this Christmas, which allows our clients to purchase food of **their own choice** for themselves and their families. They will not be able to purchase non-food items such as alcohol or tobacco with our vouchers.
Commencing this week, if you wish to help us in assisting these families, please take one of the envelopes from the 'Jesse Tree' in the Church of St Francis Xavier. The envelope with donation may be returned to the Vinnies shop at 7 Martin Street, during week days, business hours 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Saturday 9.00 am until 12.00 noon.
Please return envelope by:
MONDAY 14th DECEMBER, 2020 for distribution before Christmas.
We **thank you** for your generosity in sharing of God's gifts and helping to make a family's Christmas this year a little brighter. Every dollar goes directly to those most in need in our local community.
St Vincent de Paul Society
St Francis Xavier Conference Ballina

JOSEPHITE 2021 CALENDARS
Now available from the parish admin office. The price is still \$6.00 each and they do make a wonderful Christmas gift.


ADORATION: Friday at **11.00 am until 11.45 am.**
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND ROSARY: is held every Saturday at **9.00 am** St Francis Xavier Church
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.
We pray for all priests.


First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8;

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9;

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have
been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers
and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been
strong among you so that you will not be without any of
the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord
Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady
and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when the time will come. It is like
a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left
his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has
told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because
you do not know when the master of the house is coming,
evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpect-
edly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I
say to all: Stay awake!'

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

CATECHISTS MATTER

Parish Volunteers NEEDED for 2021

**An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are
able help in this rewarding mission.**

**Please give some thought to this important
invitation. You will be supplied with resources
and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant
team.** Contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Pauline
Shay Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0405 448 592.

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



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.