

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and future, the Bundjalung people.



**St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

welcome

**Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.**

First Sunday of Advent (B)

3rd December, 2023



PARISH FEAST DAY



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

NO MASS

WEEKDAY MASS

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
MASS 12.00 noon**

RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church**

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Feast Day

St Ambrose

Thursday

**The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday**

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

**'WELCOME VISITORS' to our parish including those who have attended
the Young Adult Retreat.**

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



PARISH FEAST DAY ~ OUR 'PATRON SAINT' ST FRANCIS XAVIER 'PARISH CUPPA'

Today Sunday 3rd December, following the 9.00 am Mass,
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church.

SVdP members to host the morning celebrations.

Parishioners are invited to bring a plate for our table to share.

This will be our final Sunday morning tea for 2023.

Everyone is very welcome.



ALL WELCOME TO TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER

12.00 NOON IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA

Please Note: Taizé will be in recess during January 2024



ADVENT MASS

**INVITATION: NEXT Saturday 9th of December
Vigil Mass ~ 5:30pm**

To celebrate the beginning of Advent, all families are
warmly invited to attend a special parish Mass with families from
Holy Family and St Francis Xavier Primary Schools.

This Mass will include a special parish blessing for all our
Year 6 students attending, an invitation to bring the infant Jesus from the family
Nativity set for a special blessing and an invitation to join other families at Cherry
Street Bowling Club after Mass for a social dinner.



COLUMBAN 2024 CALENDARS are available after each weekend Mass. \$10.00
ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS are available following weekend
Masses. \$10.00 each for a pack of 10.

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

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@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

ROSTER: 2nd Sunday Advent, Year B: 9th/10th December, 2023
Readings : Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head ~ No Mass	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Parish Primary Schools Parish Primary Schools</i>		<i>Nicole Sullivan Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Maurice Gahan</i>
EMOHC	<i>Parish School Teachers</i>		<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Mary Goss Ron Hughes</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Woolbank, Fredrick Ousby (Sydney),

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME :

AND ALSO FOR: *John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat Hobbins, 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: Patrick O'Mara, Graham Clark, Shari McLeish (Orange), Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham Mick Ronan, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (Inverell), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (Tasmania), Joan Flew, Hugo Long, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (Sydney), Aoife Stephenson (Brisbane), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymrna 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

4th December	Monday 10.30 am	The Cenacle Anawim Room
4th & 18th December	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé ~ 45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted
5th December	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
16th December	Saturday 9.00 am	Parish Advent Reflection Day Morning tea to follow
19th December	Tuesday 12.00 noon	Parish Volunteers Mass
22nd December	Friday 12.00 noon	Anointing Mass

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

'This important Marian feast occurs during Advent, a season of watchful and prayerful preparation for Christmas. She who knew better than anyone how to wait attentively for the Lord guides us and shows us how to make more vital and active our journey to the Holy Night of Bethlehem. With her, we spend these weeks in prayer and, guided by her bright star, hasten to make the spiritual journey that will lead us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation with greater intensity' *Pope John Paul*

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.

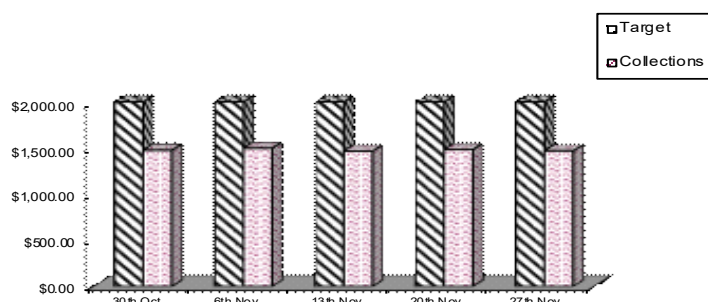
- **By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- **By making an EFTPOS donation — 1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name**
- **2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish 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 4.15% 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>	\$ 699.60
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 329.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,469.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



ARE WE PREPARED

When going on a trip, especially overseas, many people spend a good amount of time in preparation. There may be a trip to the doctor, dentist, pharmacy, the supermarket and even the hairdresser. Calls to insurance companies regarding travel and medical cover, requests to neighbours and family members to keep an eye on the house, the dog, the cat ... the list goes on.

Much of the preparation goes into ensuring that when we do leave, there is peace of mind knowing that everything possible has been done. There could also be a last-minute momentary panic. Just as the plane is about to take off, or when the ship is about to leave port, the thought crosses your mind; have I left the kitchen light on?

We hear this in today's gospel. Mark is encouraging his faith community to continue living their lives as best they can in preparation for the second coming of Christ. When Jesus ascended into heaven after Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a lot of the early disciples and followers were left with the impression that Jesus would come back sooner rather than later to usher in a new era of God's Kingdom.

Hence, there was a lot of urgency in the early writings of the early faith communities to encourage one another not to lose faith, not to fall by the wayside and to continue to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ. In other words, to maintain their faith and peace of mind.

For us in the 21st century and reading the words of the gospel, the circumstances of our faith and our journey maybe somewhat different from those early communities in Mark's time. However, the overarching message of being ready and prepared remains the same.

Advent is a 'reminder' time to do our best each day to follow in the footsteps of Christ and loving God and loving our neighbour. To take the journey of the path less travelled. To go against the grain of a world that promotes greed, power, and a focus on the self over others. To have hearts that are open to the mystery of God in our lives, in the lives of others and in the wider world, despite all the uncertainties, doubts, anxieties and even fears around us.

Advent is when we begin to prepare for what is to come: When we plant our faith firmly in God's truth so we can better face up to the delays, the unexpected side trips and dark pathways that our lives can unexpectedly take.

And that truth is that God so loved the world that God gave his only Son to be born as one of us. So let us stay awake and be witnesses to the wonder of God's love that is continuously at work around us as it was then, as it is now, and as it will be for all time.

Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

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.

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 18th DECEMBER, 2023 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**



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH BALLINA

**2023
PARISH DAY
OF REFLECTION**

**16TH
DEC. 2023
9AM**

FEATURING:

ROSARY . RECONCILIATION . REFLECTION . ADORATION . BENEDICTION

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN THIS PARISH EVENT IN
PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER

**5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Readers**

John Jarzynski & Mick Vella

EMOHC

Phil Chapman ~ Pauline Fingleton ~ Leanne Robbins

**7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Readers**

Trish Bazar &

EMOHC

Phil Chapman &

**9.00 am Mass Christmas Day
Readers**

Richard Goss & Gemma Duffy

EMOHC

Denise Miller & Cathy Campbell

11.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

Maxine Cole &

EMOHC

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The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. 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**



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: 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 Corinthians 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: Mark 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 unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER**

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.

Communion Antiphon: The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.

WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST AMBROSE

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: He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

DID YOU KNOW? • Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. During this time we reflect on the coming of Christ into human history as a small baby, the coming of Christ at the end of time and the coming of Christ into our own lives each day. Thus Advent has a past, present and future dimension.

• The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The Church's liturgical year follows a three-year cycle and we move today into the second of those, Year B. The gospel readings for this year come predominantly from the Gospel of Mark.

MAKING CONNECTIONS• This parable describes each of the watchful servants as having 'their own task'. What do you see as your task at this point in your life? How well are you performing it?

• Are you fully open to the possibilities which each moment offers? What 'unexpected' things may hinder being attentive?

• Reflect on the periods of waiting in your life. Pay particular attention to times this week when you have to wait—in traffic, at an appointment, in a shop. Use those periods of waiting to reflect on your day, and slowly repeat the 'Maranatha' prayer. Be attentive to the joy that is to come.

• *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!* This invocation of Christ is one of the most ancient prayers of the Church. It conveys the sense of urgency felt by the first believers and their hope for a swift union with Christ. It is a fine short prayer to use often during Advent.

www.cam.org.au/summit