



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.**

1st Sunday of Advent (A)

30th November, 2025



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 THIS WEEK

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

12.00 noon Ballina

ADORATION FRIDAY

11.00 am to 11.45 am



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

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Feast Days

**St Francis Xavier
Parish Patron Saint
Wednesday**

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

ADVENT WREATH

Lighting 1st Candle



PRIEST: Lord Jesus you bring the promise of salvation.

PEOPLE: COME AND AWKEN 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



WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: We joyfully welcome **Zachary Heard**, who was baptised this week through the RCIA program. May God bless him as he begins his new life in Christ, and may our parish community support him with prayer and fellowship.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

DUE TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEETING SET DOWN FOR LAST MONDAY

The Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be held **THIS Tuesday 2nd December at 12.30 pm**, in the Activity Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina.

Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.

You will be most Welcome.

CELEBRATING OUR PARISH FEAST DAY

'PATRON SAINT' ST FRANCIS XAVIER 'PARISH 'CUPPA'
NEXT Sunday 7th December, following the 9.00 am Mass, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church. SVdP members to host the Parish cuppa.

Parishioners are invited to bring a plate for morning tea. Our RCIA candidates for 2025 will be fully received into the Catholic faith at this Mass.

Everyone is very welcome.



Feast Day
Wednesday
3rd December



FUNERAL NOTICE: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **GINO BORDIN** who has sadly passed away.

A Requiem Mass will be held this Thursday 4th December at 10.00am in St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

COLUMBAN 2026 CALENDARS are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 each

MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 for a packet of 10.

ADVENT 2025 the PROMISE :

Reflection books are available from the parish office - \$8.00 ea. For individual preparation for Christmas. *Parish*

*Advent Reflection Morning 9.00 am
Saturday 13th December,*

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

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associates: email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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

**PARISH LIBRARY:
SCHOOLS:**

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

St Francis Xavier Primary: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

Holy Family Primary: Principal: Mr Murray Deeps - 02 6687 5311 - 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Lee MacMaster - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

AGED CARE:

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

Second Sunday of Advent Year A: 6th/7th December 2025
Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Matt Ritchie Jeanette Wilkins	Sue Hetherington Courtney Hyde	Wendy Hughes Margaret Tay	Bernadette McQuillan Warwick Manning
EMOHC	Katrina Miles Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Murray Deeps	Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gino Bordin, Mary Evans, Joan Smith (*Tamworth*), Michael Honeywell, Neville Johnston.,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

AND ALSO FOR: *Jack & Marie Flood, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.*

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Luke Willett, Gloria Bordin, Veronica Bennett (*Gold Coast*), Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (*Sydney*), Paddy Mulgrew (*Northern Ireland*), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (*Brisbane*), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Daphne Sweeney, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevé Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham., Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlback & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Jocelyn O'Brien,

unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

30th November	Sunday 12.00 noon	Annual Parish Lunch
1st December	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
2nd December	Tuesday 12.30 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Meeting
2nd December	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
4th December	Thursday 5.30 pm—7.30 pm	Alpha MTR
7th December	Sunday 9.45 & 11.30 am Parish Cuppa	Feast of St Francis Xavier
13th December	Saturday 9.00 am	Parish Advent Reflection Morning

URGENT
PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST
LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED
FOR 5.30 PM VIGIL MASS
9.00 AM SUNDAY MASS
11.00 AM SUNDAY MASS
It is with great hope that we look forward to a heartening response to this call for assistance.
 Please contact the Parish Office 02 6681 1048.
Thank you

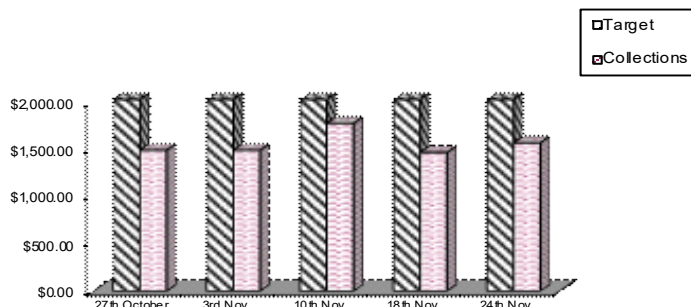
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Erick**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS 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 use your Planned Giving number as reference.

DIF PAYS 3.40% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker
 87-89 River St Ballina 026686 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>	\$ 838.60
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 276.85
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,548.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Exciting news is coming

“Stay awake!” It’s not exactly the most comforting advice for people who might already be tired at the end of a long year – especially as we join the throngs flocking to shops for the usual Christmas spend-up. Yet that’s the cry that greets us on this first Sunday of Advent. The season opens not with tinsel and cheer, but with Jesus telling his disciples to be alert, watchful, and ready for something new.

Isaiah paints a hopeful picture of what this newness might mean: nations streaming to the mountain of the Lord, swords beaten into ploughshares, war replaced with peace. After a year marked by wars, famine and political mayhem, this is a vision for which we would be prepared to stay awake. The psalm aptly echoes our present longing, calling us to pray for peace in Jerusalem and to rejoice at the prospect of God’s house filled with pilgrims.

And then comes Jesus’ story about Noah’s day. People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, carrying on with ordinary life. Nothing wrong with that, of course—except that they were asleep to the bigger picture. When the flood came, they weren’t ready. Jesus says the same will be true of the coming of the Son of Man: two people at work side by side, one ready, one not. So: “Stay awake.”

Paul, writing to the Romans, makes it even plainer: “You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.” His message feels urgent, like an alarm

clock going off before the dawn. We wake with a start and wonder, “Is it too late?”

It’s tempting to hear this only as a warning about the end of the world and a possible pending judgement for our sins. But Advent is not about dire predictions or even more dire penitential practices. Advent invites us to hear this biblical message in a gentler, more everyday tone. Stay awake to what God is doing in your life right now. Stay awake to the small gifts that slip past us when we’re on autopilot. Stay awake to the people around you who might need attention, kindness, or encouragement.

Advent is a season that sneaks up in the middle of ordinary life. The shops have been in Christmas mode for weeks already. Work deadlines pile up. Social calendars start filling. Christmas lunch planning is pressing. And in the middle of all that noise, the church whispers, “Wake up. Pay attention. Something new is coming.”

Staying awake doesn’t require us to drink more coffee or get less sleep. It means living with our eyes wide open – choosing not to drift through December in a haze, but to notice where God’s peace, hope, and joy are breaking in. Advent asks us to be watchful people, ready to catch glimpses of God’s kingdom in unexpected places: in conversations with friends, in moments of silence, even in the messy, imperfect preparations for Christmas. Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY
St Francis Xavier Conference
‘JESSE TREE’/Christmas Appeal




As we commence Advent, you will notice the ‘Jesse Trees’ in our churches. This year we join the ‘Jesse Tree’ and Christmas Appeal together as one. Your donations over the next 4 weeks will enable the Conference to distribute Food Cards to people in need this Christmas, allowing them to purchase food of their choice.

How to Help:

1. Take an envelope from the Jesse Tree in the Church. Donation options are on and inside the envelopes.
2. Complete your donation (cash or other) and return the envelope on a collection plate at a Mass over the next 3 weeks; or return the envelope to a Vinnies Shop, at 7 Martin Street, Ballina or Shop 5, 64 Ballina Street, Lennox Head during business hours: Weekdays: 9 am – 4 pm Saturdays: 9 am – 12 noon.

It would be appreciated if the envelopes can be returned by **Sunday 21st December 2025**. Thank you for your kind generosity in sharing God’s gifts and helping to make Christmas a little brighter for families and individuals doing it a little tougher this Christmas.

“Oh! how happy the man of means who uses his wealth and his life for the greater glory of God, from whom he has received them!” ~ Vincent de Paul



FUNERAL NOTICE
Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **MARY EVANS** who has sadly passed away.
A Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 15th December at 1.00 pm in St Francis Xavier Church.

My name is Tupou Katoa, and I’m reaching out to ask for your support in any way possible regarding furniture. We have four **PALM** workers who will be moving into a new home in Ballina, NSW next week. They are currently working at Crowley Care, and the house they’re moving into is brand new and completely unfurnished. To help ease the financial burden on these ladies, we’re hoping to source furniture including whitegoods, so they don’t have to cover these costs themselves. If you have any items you’d like to donate, please feel free to email me, and we’ll arrange pickup. Your generosity would mean so much and truly make a difference in helping them feel at home. If you don’t have anything available but know someone who might, please share this message with them. Every little bit helps, and together we can make this move a positive and hopeful experience for these hardworking women. Thank you so much for considering this request we deeply appreciate your kindness and support.
Warm Regards Tupou. tupou.katoa@healthpluspeople.com.au

2025 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER (roster board at the back of church)

<p>5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Readers Julie McKinnon & Mick Vella&.....~ Phil Chapman EMOHC&.....~ Phil Chapman</p>
<p>7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Readers&..... EMOHC</p>

<p>9.00 am Mass Christmas Day Readers&..... EMOHC</p>
<p>11.00 am Mass Christmas Day Readers&..... EMOHC</p>



Interest Rate – 3.40% For further information and our current rate, Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5;

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is, there to praise the Lord’s name.

There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **(R.)**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

‘Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!’ **(R.)**

4. For love of my brethren and friends

I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.’

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASS

TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2025

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 3rd DECEMBER, 2025 ~ FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of your name to my kin.

Communion Antiphon: What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2025

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER, 2025

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.

READERS & EOMHC : If you are available to assist with our Christmas Masses please add your name to the roster sheet at the back of the Church. Thank you. Your assistance will be appreciated.

**Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus is now in recess.
Devotion will resume 3rd February 2026**

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00 ea

Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office is available:

to listen to your concerns respectfully, offer support, and provide guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Phone (02) 6621 9444

email:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

