



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH BALLINA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
47 CHERRY STREET  
BALLINA

## WELCOME

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
94 BALLINA STREET  
LENNOX HEAD

*Respecting the traditional people of this land-past, present and future, the Bundjalung people*

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

PARISH NOTICES

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER  
CHURCH BALLINA

SATURDAY VIGIL - 5.30 PM

SUNDAY - 9.00 AM

SUNDAY - 11.00 AM

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
LENNOX HEAD

SUNDAY - 7.30 AM

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER  
CHURCH

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
5.00 PM

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
12.00 NOON

ADORATION FRIDAY

11.00 AM TO 11.45 AM

RECONCILIATION

9.00 AM SATURDAY

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Father Peter Padsungay

### ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Erick Quinteros

### DEACON

Rev Assoc Professor  
Anthony Gooley

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mr Brendon Clarke

PARISH BUSINESS  
MANAGER

Mr Michael Penhey

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### BAPTISM

Our parish family **warmly welcomes** into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this weekend: **Janaia Patrice Malan** daughter of James and Janice.

**DEATH NOTICE:** Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Kevin Sullivan** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, in St Francis Xavier Church.

*'Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, may Kevin rest in peace.'*



### PARISH 'CUPPA'

Our next Parish **'Cuppa'** will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March** following the 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church.

**Everyone is very welcome.**

**BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALKS 'THE SPIRITUAL LIFE' MONDAYS AT 6.00 pm at St Mary's chapel** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Prayer ~ Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Detachment Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Union with God



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY MEETING: The first meeting for 2026 will be held this Monday 23rd February at 3.00 pm in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

**You will be most welcome to join with this vibrant Auxiliary.**



### UNLOCKING THE POWER IN BAPTISM

Answer Jesus' call to come to Him and discover the power in Baptism. Date: **Saturday 14 March 2026 Time: 10.30am to 5.00pm**  
**Venue: St Francis Xavier Parish Upper Room**

Presented by the Mission Team of Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal Brisbane

- BYO lunch Contact: Maxine 0429 669 029



### THE 54<sup>TH</sup> EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 IN SYDNEY

**HOLY HOUR AND ADORATION in St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2.00 pm** to support the nationwide Holy Hour to begin preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028.

**'Eucharist28'** will be a moment of profound joy for the whole of Australia as we welcome pilgrims from across the globe, including the holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

### UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2026

- Monday 23rd February 10.30 am Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
- **Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting: This Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 3.00pm Education Centre Crowley Care.**
- Tuesday 24th February 10.00 am Cherry Coffee
- **Monday 5.30 pm & Thursday 10 am 23rd & 26th February Gospel of Matthew STR**
- Tuesday 24th February 10.00 am Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus LH
- **Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 5.30 pm**
- **menALIVE Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 8.00 am Rise Cafe Lennox Head**
- **Parish Cuppa Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the grounds of SFX Church following the 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses**
- **World Day of Prayer Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March Uniting Church Ballina 9.30 am**

	5.30 pm Mass	7.30 am Mass L H	9.00 am Mass	11.00 am Mass
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader 2nd Reader	Peter Fear Kristie Coster	Amanda Deeps Murray Deeps	Nicole Sullivan Wendy Hughes	Maxine Cole Maurice Gahan
EMOHC	Jeanette Wilkins Phil Chapman	Maddy Pride	Deacon Anthony Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
Gifts			Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor	
Announcer	Katrina Miles	Sue Hetherington	Margaret Tay	Maxine Cole
Laptop	Helen Lockton		Colin Mumikwa	Maxine Cole

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Roy Thwaite, Aileen Lane (*Dalby*), Kevin Sullivan, Gerald Buttrose, Faye Clements,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Maureen & Thomas Borthistle, Sr Antoinette Walsh, Gurrino Gardiman

**AND ALSO FOR:** Boleslaw Jarzynski, Michael Harris (*Bendigo*), Gino Bordin, 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:** Sr Patricia O'Brien PBVM, Joy Long, Julia Paden, Samantha Anderson, Brian Dye, Andrea Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Caceres, Daniel Freeman, Gloria Bordin, Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Schneider, Gloria Greguric, Annemarie Higgins, unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (*Please advise after six weeks if a name is to be removed or if good health has been restored.*)

**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*

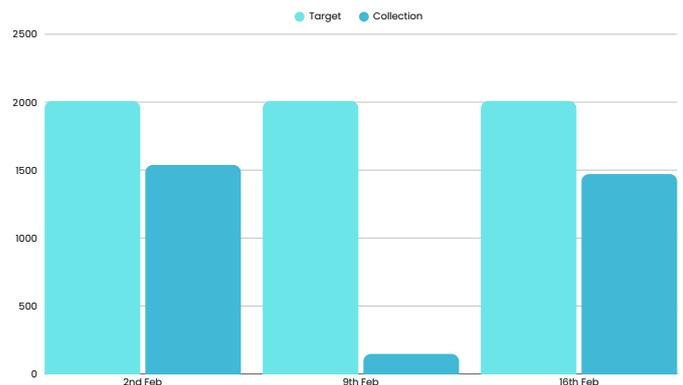
**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ \*\*1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS COLLECTION\*\*:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have 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 Street Ballina 02 6686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry Street Ballina 1300 139 099 or online [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au)

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS		
1st Collection	Support clergy	\$1,168.25
2nd Collection Support of the Parish	Loose Plate	\$357.35
	Planned Giving	\$1,604.55
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



## REFLECTION 'It is Written'

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.  
© Fr Michael Tate Liturgy Help

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place each Friday during Lent at 5.30 pm in St Francis Xavier Church.**

**Ladies rosary and afternoon tea 1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday of the month 1.30 pm phn Pauline 0438 435 566**



**First Sunday of Lent**  
21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



**UNITE**   
**AGAINST**  
**POVERTY**  
this Lent

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



World Day of Prayer 2026

**Nigeria**

*'I will give you rest: Come'*



**2026 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am Uniting Church,**  
**Cherry Street Ballina**

**TAIZE WILL RECOMMENCE FOR 2026**  
**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH AT 12.00 NOON ST**  
**FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH**

**PRAYER GROUPS IN OUR PARISH**

**Prayer of the Church and**

**Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am**

**Christian Meditation:**

Saturday 9.00 am Anawim Room

**CCR: Monday 1.45 to 4.00 pm**

Anawim Room

**Marian Cenacle: Monday**

10.0 am Anawim Room

**menAlive: fortnightly**

Wednesdays 8.00 am Rise

Cafe Lennox Head

**Parish Youth Group: Upper Room**

Sundays 6.00 pm to

8.00 pm

**Devotion to the Holy Face**

**of Jesus: Tuesday 10.00 am**

Holy Family Church Lennox Head

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY ON SALE FOLLOWING EACH WEEKEND MASS. \$2.00 EA**



**LENTEN PROGRAM 'COMPASSIO' Reflection Books** are still available from the Parish Office \$8.00 each.  
Phone the Parish Office 02 6681 10498 if you would like to join a group.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES**  
**TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation; from age to age, you are.

**Communion Antiphon:** When I called, the God of justice gave me answer; from anguish you released me; have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer!

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old.

Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress

**Communion Antiphon:** All who take refuge in you shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and you shall dwell among them.

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** To my words give ear, O Lord; give heed to my sighs. Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

**Communion Antiphon:** Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened

**FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Set me free from my distress, O Lord. See my lowliness and suffering, and take away all my sins.

**Communion Antiphon:** As I live, says the Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he turn back and live

**The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office:** Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please contact the Safeguarding Office 6621 9444 or email [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au). Procedures are in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or vulnerable people at risk. March edition of Safeguarding News available in the Church stand



**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PRIEST AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES.**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7

*A reading from the book of Genesis*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned**

**1.** Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

**3.** A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit **(R.)**

**2.** My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done **(R.)**

**4.** Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit  
of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and  
my mouth shall declare your praise **(R.)**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:12-19 (*shorter form*)

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

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

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:1-11

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**PARISH CONTACTS**

**Parish Administration Centre:** 53-57 Cherry Street Ballina Phn 02 6681 1048 P.O. Box 46 Ballina 2478  
email: admin@sfxballina.org.au Office hours Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

**Parish website:** [www.sfxballina.org.au](http://www.sfxballina.org.au)

**SCHOOLS**

**St Francis Xavier Primary:** Swift Street Ballina Phn 02 6686 3370 Principal: Mr Tony Hunter

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

**Xavier Catholic College:** 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head Phn: 02 6687 6484 Principal: Mr Michael Campbell

**LONG DAY CARE CENTRE**

**St Anne's:** Phn: 02 6687 596142 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head. Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst

**AGED CARE**

**Crowley Care Services:** 154 Cherry Street, Ballina Phn: 1300 139 099 CEO: Mr Michael Penhey