

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 in
Lent (B)**

18th February 2024



**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 TO FRIDAY
MASS 12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Day

The Chair of St Peter
Thursday

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY
12.00 NOON IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA

FRIDAY LUNCH ALPHA SERIES
starts Friday 23rd February, in the Mother Teresa room
12:45 – 3:00 pm (After midday Mass).

MAXIMUM 12 people

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions where you can explore life, faith and meaning in a conversational atmosphere over a shared meal. Each week we will watch a video that asks the BIG questions without dictating any right answers.

Join the conversation or simply enjoy listening & friendship.

Lunch will be provided. (Please advise any dietary issues.)

Register at the Parish Office or phone Maxine 0429 669 029



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY : The first meeting for 2024 is to be held on **Monday 26th February at 3.00 pm** in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina. Please consider attending, you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. *You will be most welcome.*



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ~ PALESTINE
FRIDAY 1st MARCH, 2024 ~ 9.30 am

'I beg you ... bear with one another in love'

Prepared by Palestinian Christian women living in Australia
Uniting Church, Cherry Street, Ballina



ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH CATECHISTS

Our parish joins together in prayer, to pray for God's blessing on our catechists as they begin their ministry for 2024.

Our catechists provide a religious dimension to those catholic children enrolled in our state primary schools, Southern Cross Ballina and Lennox Head Primary.

The parish has a responsibility to assist parents to provide a Catholic education for their children according to circumstances.



Catechists assist the Parish Priest to fulfil his obligations in Religious Education as well as assist and support parents in their responsibility. Catechists, offer the genuinely human values of the Gospel as a contribution to the personal development of students.

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 of Lent, Year B: 24th/25th February 2024

Readings : Genesis 22:1-2,9-13, 15-18; Psalm 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Trish Bazar Yvonne Head</i>	<i>Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Pauline Fingleton</i>	<i>Mark McDonald</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Sr Antoinette Walsh rsj (*Sydney*), Keith Smith, Stephen James Fox, Suzanne Wall (*Melbourne*), Father Kevin Bates SM,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Deirdre Cox, June Ianna, Mary Grant, Raymond Grant, Bill Condon Jr.,

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 the faithful departed.

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevé (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Sydney*), Geoff Johannes, Mary Howard, Robert Ireland, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tasmania*), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (*infant*), Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham 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*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas.

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

19th February & 4th March	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé <i>45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted</i>
20th February	Tuesday 10.00am	‘Cherry’ Coffee
20th February	Tuesday 10.00am L H Church	Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus
23rd February	Friday 12.45 to 3.00 pm <i>Mother Teresa Room Admin Centre</i>	Friday Lunch Alpha Series
23rd February	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
23rd February 24th February	Friday 9.30am <i>Meeting</i> Saturday 6.30 pm <i>Dinner @ Club Lennox</i>	Holy Family Lennox Head Committee
28th February & 13th March	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
26th February	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary

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**

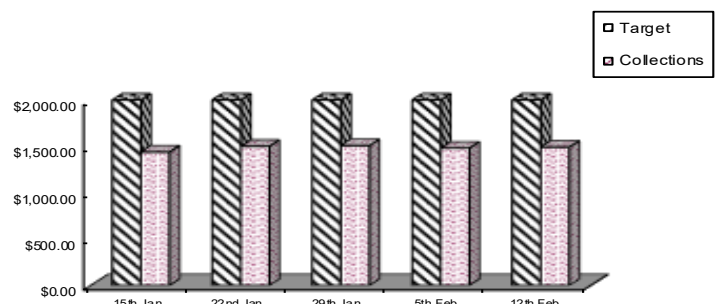
* **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218 Please use your Planned Giving number as reference.

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>	\$ 705.70
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 277.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,492.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



LET THIS BE A DIFFERENT LENT

Mark wrote his gospel for persecuted Christians living in Rome. These early believers lived in fear of being thrown to the wild beasts in the public square; their cruel and agonising deaths a source of grotesque 'entertainment' for Rome's citizens! Interestingly, today's gospel situates Jesus with wild beasts in the wilderness, where Mark says that he was tempted by Satan. The word *satan* in Hebrew means an opponent, and in the Old Testament, it typically referred to human opponents. In time, the word also came to be understood as a kind of 'public prosecutor', someone who accused people before God. Eventually, it came to mean God's adversary; a demonic spirit opposed to God. So, in the New Testament, Satan was seen as the powerful spirit of evil, engaged in a great tussle against God. By Jesus entering the wilderness, he 'took on' Satan on his home ground; an encounter which Jesus clearly won!

But when Jesus leaves the wilderness of temptation, we know it's an experience that he will encounter again and again at various stages throughout his public life and ministry, including those last hours in the garden and on the Cross.

For example, recall when Jesus tells Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's." So, in his preaching, Jesus, who is *the* way to God, urged his followers to see that the time had come for them to embrace God's way, to allow God to guide and direct their lives and to allow the Good News to illuminate their minds, hearts and actions. But for that to happen, they need to repent and believe.

For us, too, temptations and evil are part of our lives. Selfishness, greed, dishonesty, jealousy, revenge, resentment, control and power constantly surround and seduce us. But the true value, worth and beauty of life, comes with building and fostering a loving and just society, founded on Jesus the Way to God, and his Good News of truth, integrity, love, compassion, freedom and peace.

That's why we need this purifying period of Lent every year. If, in recent years, we let it pass us by largely unnoticed, let this year be different. Let it be a time to review our lives, reflect upon our thoughts, words and deeds, and concentrate our efforts more fully on the things of God, and to repent and believe.

At the beginning of Lent, the Church always takes us into the wilderness with Jesus, to confront the powers that are contrary to the gospel. The good news is that we face this lifelong task under the guidance, strength and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with the powerful nourishment of the Eucharist, and together with the support and encouragement of our fellow pilgrims of faith gathered here with us today.

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2024



HOLY FAMILY LENNOX HEAD COMMITTEE: The monthly meeting will be held in the Sacred Heart Room behind the Church building **next Friday 23rd February commencing at 9.30 am.** Contact Sue 0400 052 505 if you would like to add an item to the agenda.



1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
17th & 18th FEBRUARY



This year, Project Compassion

brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.



Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the Church, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



MONTHLY DINNERS @ CLUB LENNOX

Parishioners are welcome to the first of our monthly dinners for 2024 **next Saturday 24th February at 6.30 pm.** This is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and delicious food. Children and teenagers are most welcome.



This is an initiative of the Holy Family Lennox Head Committee.



'PARISH 'CUPPA' Sunday 3rd March, following the 9.00 am Mass, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church. **All welcome.**

Bishop Greg's Lenten Talks ~ Bishop Greg will be holding his Lenten Talks in St Mary's Chapel, Lismore 6.00pm on Monday 19th, 26th February and 11th March. Please note there will no talk on Monday 4th March. This year he will speak of "Themes From St Therese of Lisieux". *All are most welcome to attend.*



OUR LADY OF FATIMA 1st Saturday Devotions. Rosary will be recited at Holy Family Church Lennox Head on the 1st Saturday of each month commencing on Saturday 2nd March at 8.00 am **Everyone welcome to attend!**



DIVINE MERCY
Do you know about Divine Mercy and its importance?
Want to understand the background to the Sunday of Divine Mercy?
COME AND SEE!

The Video "TIME FOR MERCY"

Where: At the home of Kevin & Marie Sullivan 9 Stewart St Lennox Head Ph 0409887677

When: Monday, 26th Feb - 7pm - for 7.15 viewing
Wednesday, 6th March - 9.15am - for 9.30 viewing.
(See also Website - thedivinemercy.org (the basics))

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024 YEAR

First Reconciliation: Tuesday 19th March 5.30 pm

First Holy Communion: Sunday 2nd June

Sacramental Program for 2024/2025 Year:

Confirmation 15th August 2024

Parents - please keep your children supervised while in the Church and the Church grounds. 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.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15;*A reading from the book Genesis*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:*****(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant.***

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

*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: Mark 1:12-15***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES
TUESDAY 20th 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 21st 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 22nd FEBRUARY ~ FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST PETER****Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord says to Simon Peter: I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and, once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.**Communion Antiphon:** Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**FRIDAY 23rd 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.**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL****DID YOU KNOW?** • There is evidence of Lenten preparation for Easter very early in the Church's history but its practices became more regularised after the Council of Nicaea. (325)

- Each Lent, all the baptised are expected to adopt the three Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving to those in need.
- In years gone by, Catholics did not eat meat on any Friday, and later on Fridays in Lent. Today there are two days of the year when Catholics are expected to not eat meat – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – but all of the Fridays of Lent are still days when we should 'fast'.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: What comforts and distractions make it difficult for you to follow Jesus' way? Can you dispense with these for the 40 days of Lent? Can you, instead, take on additional tasks or disciplines to assist you in walking with God?

The response to today's Psalm makes a wonderful prayer for this week.

*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant.**www.cam.org.au/summit*