

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

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



St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street, Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

20th August, 2023

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 Days

St Pius X

Monday

**The Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Tuesday

St Rose of Lima

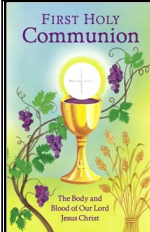
Wednesday

St Bartholomew, apostle

Thursday

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



'Congratulations'

*to all the children from
St Francis Xavier Parish who receive their
First Holy Communion this Sunday.*

BAPTISM: Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Lourdes Ngaire King** daughter of Mathew and Charlene.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Shane Cullinane** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass will be held this Wednesday 23rd August at 10.00 am, in Holy Family Church, Lennox Head.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH SPRING LUNCH Sunday 10th September, 2023 ~ Cherry Street Bowling Club, Ballina ~ 12.00 for 12.30 pm ~ \$20.00 pp ~ Roast Meal, sweets, tea/coffee. Lucky Door prize. Meals for children provided at \$10.00 per child. Family groups most welcome.

Tickets to be purchased by Monday 4th September to assist with catering. Tickets on sale following each weekend Mass, and weekdays from the Parish Office, where eftpos payments can be made. Drinks from the bar not included in ticket price.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ The next Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be **Next Monday 28th ~ August 2.00 pm**, Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street. Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome!** Please note this will be the last of the 2.00 pm meetings for winter. We will return to 3.00 pm from September 25th.

TAIZE THIS MONDAY 21ST AUGUST AT 12.00 NOON

SINGERS WANTED to learn Taize songs for the Taize group. Please leave your name and telephone number at the Parish office—6681 1048.



PARISH 'CUPPA' ~ FATHERS' DAY
Sunday 3rd September following the 9.00 am Mass,
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier, Church.
Everyone is very welcome

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 (long service leave)

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke (acting parish administrator)

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 26th/27th August, 2023
Readings: Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Peter Fear Abbie Beecher</i>	<i>Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Bill Duffy Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan</i>
EMOHC	<i>Cheryl Bowen</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Amy Derrick & Frank</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Shane Cullinane, Colleen Curtin (Sydney), Anzac Cummings OAM, Vince Kean, Rosa Lowe,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Katrina Day, Don Hains

AND ALSO FOR: *Marj Hobbins, John Patrick Moreland, 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: Annemarie Higgins, Kaysie Arnadall, Louise King, Michael Lyons (Sydney), Bill Duffy, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (Inverell), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (Tasmania) Tanya White, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (Sydney), Aoife Stephenson (Brisbane), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunty 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

21st August	Monday 12.00 noon	Taize
22nd August	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
26th August	Saturday 6.30 pm	Parishioner Dinner @ Club Lennox
28th August	Monday 2.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
3rd September	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa Fathers' Day
7th September	Thursday 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Wine & Cheese afternoon @ Crowley
10th September	Sunday 12.00 noon <i>Tickets on sale after each weekend Mass and weekdays from Parish Admin Office.</i>	Parish Spring Lunch Cherry Street Bowling Club 
12th September	Tuesday 7.30 am	Parish Men's Breakfast @ Crowley

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.

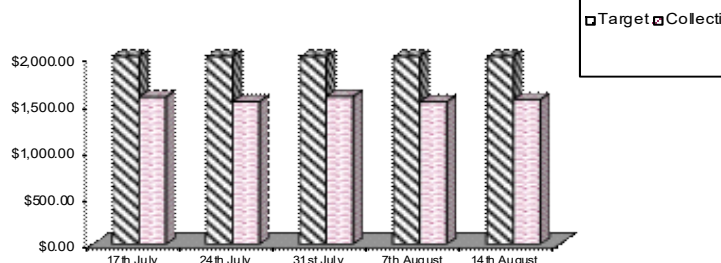
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier 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 3.70% 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>	\$ 805.00
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 414.60
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,540.05
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Living on the margins: Matthew's community consisted of Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles), which contributed to tension and disharmony. The Jewish Christians still saw themselves as Jews. For them, they hadn't changed their religion. Christianity was simply another reform-movement within Judaism. However, being Jewish was not solely about religion, it was also cultural; giving identity, meaning, understanding and depth to life.

The Jews saw themselves as a holy nation, a people set apart; and non-Jews were considered the opposite! So, when non-Jews began joining the new community and growing in number, the Jews felt overwhelmed and uncomfortable with the religious and cultural blending. Questions arose: Were non-Jews welcome in the Christian movement and on what conditions? Who decides about membership and participation? Is there openness to integration and compromise?

Throughout his gospel, Matthew confronts attitudes of superiority and contempt for Gentiles among the Jewish Christians. For example: He introduces and gives prominence to the Gentile Magi. He has Jesus calling his followers to "love your enemies". He shows Jesus curing the servant of a Gentile centurion and exorcising Gentile demons.

In today's story, Matthew addresses the differences between a woman and Jesus' disciples. Matthew doesn't just identify her by geography but uses the term 'Canaanite'; an ancient word for Israel's long-time enemies. He shows that it's the disciples who first have a problem with her: "She's shouting

after us." Matthew uses the usual Jewish objection by having Jesus say: "I was sent only to the lost-sheep of the House of Israel." But then he adds a balancing statement by having Jesus respond to the woman and praise her faith: "Woman, you have great faith."

Matthew shows Jesus being deeply moved by the woman's desperate motherly love and her readiness to trust him. Jesus has no interest in her 'religion' or any questionable moral worthiness, and certainly not that she was a Gentile woman. Jesus is as close to those on the margins as he is to those who belong to the so-called 'inner circle'.

In the conversation between the woman and Jesus, Matthew demonstrates God's abundance: "Even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table." (Recall the feeding of the 5000 - twelve baskets-full of scraps were collected from what was left over). God's grace, mercy and compassion are lavish and reach out beyond Israel to embrace the whole world.

So, who might be today's equivalent of the ostracised Gentile woman or the Gentile and Jewish members of Matthew's community?

Like Matthew, perhaps we can use the story to examine contemporary life, with all its questions, differences, uncertainties, tensions and complexities. A good starting point is to see life through the lens of God's unconditional love for everyone and to reach out with respect, compassion and sensitivity to others, especially those pushed to the edges.

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

'COME AND SEE' ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR LEARNING ABOUT OUR FAITH TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE CALL 0438 435 566



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY invite you to a **WINE & CHEESE AFTERNOON** at Crowley Activity Centre on Thursday 7th September from 3.00 to 4.30 pm—\$25.00 per person includes share cheese platters with wine or soft drink. Live music will be on hand for your enjoyment.

BALLINA CATHOLIC CHURCH MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST ~ TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

7.30 am—9.00 am ~ Crowley Activity Centre ~ \$25.00 pp ~ Buffet Style Breakfast

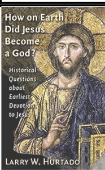
For catering purposes please register by Friday 8th September at Crowley 1300 139 099

Payment can be made at Crowley Reception on the day or visit Crowley in office hours 8.30 am—5.00 pm



POSITION AVAILABLE—CCD DIRECTOR—LISMORE DIOCESE

Reporting to the Bishop of the Diocese of Lismore, the Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)/SRE Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the compliance of the Diocese of Lismore as an Authorised Provider in relation to Catechists teaching in NSW Public Schools. The Director implements Child Protection training, classroom management, curriculum and training courses, manages authorisation and verification of Working with Children Checks. Working in this role, you have the option of working anywhere in the Diocese. If you would like more information, please ring Marijo Bradley on 6621 9444. **Applications close THIS Monday 21st August 2023** or submit your resume to mbradley@lismore.catholic.org.au



BOOK CLUB: Deacon Anthony is starting a theological book club and is looking forward for interested people to sign up as participants and hosts. It's like a regular book club in that we rotate hosts but instead of a book per month it is a chapter per month of a book. Deacon Anthony facilitates the group discussion. The first book is by Larry Hurtado, *'How on Earth did Jesus become God?'*, it's fascinating. We plan to start Thursday 7th September at 7.30 pm. Leave your name, phone and email at the parish office 6681 1048. **All are invited.**

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office. If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. 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



Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048

Marian Cenacle: Every Monday at 10.30 am—Anawim Room, Parish Admin Centre, Narelle King Phn 6681 1048

Taizé: Every second Monday SFX Church 12.00 noon

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: Monday 11.00 am St Teresa Room Parish Admin Centre.

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church.

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.



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 56:1, 6-7;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 11:13-15,29-32*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will

mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST~ FEAST OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY****Entrance Antiphon:** At your right stands the queen in robes of gold, finely arrayed.**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.**WEDNESDAY 23rd AND FRIDAY 25th AUGUST****Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**Communion Antiphon:** With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.**THURSDAY 24th AUGUST ~ FEAST OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE****Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim the salvation of God day by day; tell among the nations his glory.**Communion Antiphon:** I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, says the Lord.**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL****DID YOU KNOW?**

- The cities of Tyre and Sidon were the leading towns of ancient Phoenicia. Both cities were on the Mediterranean coast of what is now modern Lebanon. The Phoenicians were descendants of the even more ancient Canaanites who populated the area earlier.
- Israel despised the Canaanites. It loathed the Canaanite religion with its pagan gods and fertility cults and found many of their practices abominable.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Have you ever felt unfairly treated and had to stick up for yourself? What are the things that cause your heart to be troubled?
- Share a story of a time when you felt alien and unwelcome.
- The Gospel is universal. It is for all people. Are there ways you can participate in spreading the Gospel, even in small ways, this week? The best way to do this is by living the Gospel. Try to include an outsider.
- This week recite the Psalm and refrain:

O God, let all the nations praise you!
O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon Earth
and all nations learn your saving help.
O God, let all nations praise you!