

# St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,  
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,  
Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,  
94 Ballina Street,  
Lennox Head.

20th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (A)

16th August, 2020

Parish Weekend Mass  
Times

St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina (45 people)

Saturday Vigil — 5.00 pm  
Sunday — 9.00 am  
Sunday — 11.00 am

Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head (20 people)

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm  
Sunday—7.30 am

PLEASE REGISTER AT  
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND  
a weekend Mass by phoning  
6681 1048  
by Friday at 3.00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS:  
At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY  
12 noon (45 people)  
Please register with Parish Office

RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feasts

St Bernard  
Thursday

St Pius X, pope  
Friday

The Queenship of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
Saturday

## God's generous love for us all

It comes as rather a shock in today's reading when Jesus seems rather callously to rebuff a woman who desperately implores his help. Her daughter is very ill; the mother pleads for her healing. But the woman is a Canaanite; she is not a Jew, not one of the chosen people of Israel.

Does she, an outsider, a foreigner, even have a right to ask for his help? At first Jesus ignores her. Then, when she kneels and begs him again, his replies rather coldly, telling her that "It is not right to take the food of the children (i.e. the people of Israel) and throw it to the dogs (i.e., the Gentiles, the non-Jews)." But she, undeterred, pleads again, this time cleverly turning his argument against him, saying "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

At this point, after three times rebuffing her, he relents. Indeed, he changes. She's penetrated his thinking and prompted him to a new understanding and he has changed his mind! He gets the point. The point is that his mission is not just to the People of Israel. It is for everyone! Now, he commends her for her remarkable faith: "O woman, great is your faith!" and he yields to her plea. Her daughter is healed from that moment.

It is this same amazing reality of God's generous, steadfast and inclusive love of all, which the Canaanite woman so insistently and effectively forced to Jesus' realisation,

that today's readings from Isaiah and from Paul's Letter to the Romans also attest. Isaiah teaches that God's house is *for* all peoples. In other words, it is not just for God's chosen people; it is not just for Israel. Then Paul, speaking as the apostle to the Gentiles (i.e. non-Israelites), insists that "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" and that God has mercy upon all.

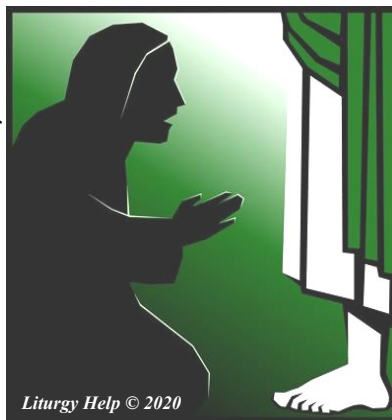
So here's the good news. God's mercy and

love are *for all*, no matter their ethnicity or culture or social standing. God's love and mercy are *for all*, and God's gifts and call are irrevocable. As Paul says in another place, nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

And here's the challenge: we too are called to faith like that of this remarkable Canaanite woman, the faith to hold on and hold firm through thick and thin, through good times and bad. God does hear our prayers, though not necessarily as or when we think best. But God's delays are not God's denials.

Secondly, we too are called to a generous and inclusive love of all, not just in our group, but also for the stranger, the foreigner, the refugee, the outsider. It's a demanding call, a call to practical action each and every day of our lives.

Anne Hunt  
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Liturgy Help © 2020

Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship .

Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their  
Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Group Coordinator: Amelia Kearney

Email: parishcouncil@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](http://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

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Allan Hay, Sr Cathy Dean rsj,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Katrina Day, Don Hains, Kevin Doherty  
**AND ALSO FOR:** James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Kathleen Kelly, 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:** Barbara Smith, Pat Evans (*Melbourne*), Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Cheryl Felsch, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, Gloria Greguric, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (*2 yrs*), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dymrna Sheehy, Greg Shore, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

### THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Under the current restrictions a maximum of 45 people can be in the Church at any time. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

**CONFIRMATION:** TBA

**RECONCILIATION:** TBA.

**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

**HOSPITAL:** If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

### GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Ensure you have registered prior to attending Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
  - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
  - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
- **Sit on or between the two crosses (X) allocated in the pew** to comply with the required social distancing rules – two people to a pew (*families can sit together*). Please **do not** sit at the end of pews.
- 45 people maximum in Ballina Church and 20 people maximum at Lennox Head church at one time.
  - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
- Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
  - You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.

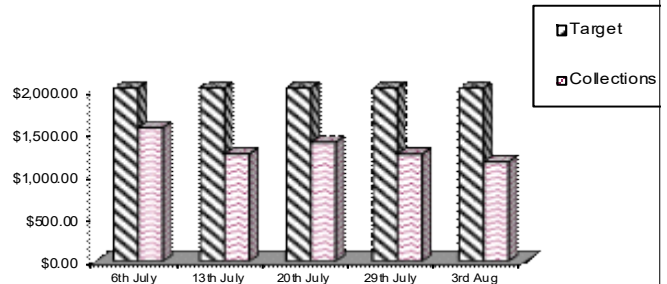
**RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Churches ..... THANK YOU**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



### DIF PAYS 0.90% 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

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM:** If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided. Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

# Parish Notices

**PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.**

## 2020/2021 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please be aware that the envelopes collected for this financial year have been printed in the opposite colours to past years and to what we are accustomed to using.

**RED IS NOW 'PLANNED GIVING' AND BLUE IS FOR THE 'CLERGY COLLECTION'.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you need to be assured of your pledge, for the month of July. Phone 6681 1048 or visit the Administration Office between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



## BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org), or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code: **Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am**

## WEARING OF MASKS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP



Parishioner attending Mass in our Parish are encouraged to wear a mask.

This is a recommendation by the NSW government and endorsed by Bishop Greg.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 'TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL'

### MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

We will celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30th August. This year the Australian Bishop's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'To live life to the full: Mental Health in Australia today. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community.'

## PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

O Mary Immaculate Queen, look down upon this distressed and suffering world. You know our misery and our weakness. O Thou who art our Mother, saving us in the hour of peril, have compassion on us in these days of great and heavy trial.

Jesus has confided to thee the treasure of His Grace, and through Thee He wills to grant us pardon and mercy.

In these hours of anguish, therefore, thy children come to Thee as their hope.

We recognize thy Queenship and ardently desire thy triumph. We need a Mother and a Mother's Heart. Thou art for us the luminous dawn which dissipates our darkness and points out the way to life. In thy clemency obtain for us the courage and the confidence of which we have such need.

Most Holy and Adorable Trinity, Who did crown with glory in Heaven the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Saviour, grant that all her children on earth may acknowledge her as their Sovereign Queen, that all hearts, homes, and nations may recognize her rights as Mother and as Queen. Amen. [www.catholictradition.org](http://www.catholictradition.org)



## UNABLE TO ATTEND MASS WOULD YOU LIKE HOLY COMMUNION AT YOUR HOME?

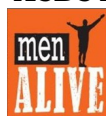


Father Anselm is offering to take Holy Communion to those in our Parish who are unable to attend a weekday Mass or Sunday Mass. This will be available on Mondays between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving Holy Communion please ring the Parish Admin Centre on 6681 1048.

Due to the uncertainty of the duration of the pandemic and people missing their Sacraments, Father Anselm is hoping to reach these parishioners.

## ACBC NATIONAL MEN'S VIRTUAL GATHERING



Brothers, what must we do?

### ACBC National Men's Virtual Gathering, Tuesday 25th August 2020

To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese, and the world.

Registration Essential and Free: [bit.ly/cm2020event](http://bit.ly/cm2020event)

Details provided to all registrants.

Further information: [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

## PARISH YOUTH GROUP



Young people from Year 6 to Year 12 are welcome to join our Youth Group. Every Saturday evening from 6.00 to 7.30 pm.

Prayer, games and music make a fun filled evening to enjoy – adult supervision is in attendance.

Please contact Parish Administration Office on 6681 1048 if you have a young person interested.

## THE LISMORE CATHOLIC BOOK AND GIFT SHOP IS OPEN!!

We are so glad to be open once again. Come on in and see our stock. Calendars, Missals, Gifts.

75 Magellan Street, Lismore  
Monday-Friday 9.00 am -4.00 pm  
Saturday 9.00 am-12.00 noon  
Ph 6627 9229

All necessary COVID-19 precautions are in place.

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

**Prayer of the Church:** is held every Saturday at **9.00 am** St Francis Xavier Church

**Christian Meditation Group:** is held every Saturday at 9.30 am in Anawim Room.

**Ballina CCR Intercession Mondays** from 9.30 am to 10.30 am in the Anawim Room.

**Prayer Meeting:** Mondays 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room

**Cenacle, Marian Movement of Priests** ~ Ballina Cenacle if you would like to join this prayer group  
Please contact the Parish Administration Office for further details 6681 1048



**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: Romans 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.



© Google image

The Gospel of the Lord.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion :** My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. [melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)



**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS**

**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**
- **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



**Invest** with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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.