

# 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.

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**3rd September, 2023**

**CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

**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 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Friday



*We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.*

### PARISH NOTICES

# Happy Fathers' Day

**FATHERS' DAY COLLECTION** will be held **THIS** weekend **2nd/3rd September** to assist the Bishop in caring for our retired priests of the Diocese. Envelopes are available in the pews of both churches.



**'CONGRATULATIONS'**  
**Pauline and Michael Shay**  
who are celebrating their  
**50th Wedding Anniversary.**



*With love and best wishes from your parish community.*



**SINCERE SYMPATHY:** Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Anne Jackson** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass will be held this Thursday 7th September at 10.00 am, in St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

**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 THIS Monday 4th September to assist with catering.**

**Last chance to purchase a ticket at this weekend's Masses.**  
*Drinks from the bar not included in ticket price.*



**BALLINA CATHOLIC MEN ALIVE 'STAY CONNECTED' ~ 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 **this 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**

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](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; Email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

# ROSTER: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 9th/10th September, 2023

Readings: Ezekial 33:7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

|                         | Saturday 5.30 pm<br>Vigil Ballina | Sunday 7.30 am<br>Lennox Head      | Sunday 9.00 am<br>Ballina       | Sunday 11.00 am<br>Ballina      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Readers                 | Abbie Beecher<br>Matthew Ritchie  | Sue Hetherington<br>Damien Kennedy | Gary Reen<br>Annette Reen       | Maurice Gahan<br>Leanne Robbins |
| EMOHC                   | John Jarzynski                    | Maddie Pride                       | Denise Miller<br>Cathy Campbell | Helen Cooney                    |
| Offertory<br>Procession |                                   |                                    | Pam Hanson<br>Gerry Taylor      |                                 |

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mary Freeman (*Adelaide*), Fr Adrian Noonan (*Adelaide*), Anne Jackson, Thomas Travers, Shane Cullinane, Colleen Curtin  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Pierre Bonello, Marie O'Brien, Colin O'Brien, Raymond Peacock

**AND ALSO FOR:** Marj 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 faithful departed.

**AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Mick Ronan, 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, Dymna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* 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

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 4th & 18th<br>September | Monday<br>12.00 noon  | Taize ~ 45 min of praise<br>meditation & music<br>uninterrupted. |
| 5th<br>September        | Tuesday<br>10.00 am   | 'Cherry'<br>Coffee Club  |
| 5th/7th<br>September    | Tuesday/Thursday<br>7.00 pm/10.30 am                                      | The Bible<br>Timeline  |
| 7th<br>September        | Thursday<br>3.00 pm - 4.30 pm   | Wine & Cheese<br>afternoon @<br>Crowley                          |
| 10th<br>September       | Sunday 12.00 noon<br>Last Tickets on sale<br>after this weekend<br>Masses | Parish Spring<br>Lunch<br>Cherry Street<br>Bowling Club          |
| 12th<br>September       | Tuesday<br>7.30 am  | Parish Men's<br>Breakfast @ Crowley                              |

## FATHERS' DAY REFLECTION

"A father is respected because he gives his children **leadership** . . . appreciated because he gives his children **care** . . . valued because he gives his children **time** . . . loved because he gives his children the one thing they treasure the most – **himself**."

[www.traditionalcatholicpriest.com/](http://www.traditionalcatholicpriest.com/)

**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.

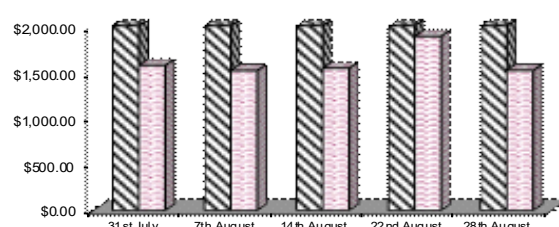
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- 2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish 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](http://www.dif.org.au)

## THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

|   |                                       |             |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| First Collection  | Support of our<br>Diocese Priests     | \$ 683.20   |
| Second Collection<br>Support of the Parish &<br>Ministries &<br>School Building &<br>Maintenance Fund | Loose Plate                           | \$ 438.20   |
|   | Planned Giving<br>Envelopes Collected | \$ 1,517.00 |
| Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target  |                                       | \$ 2,009.00 |



### *The way of the cross*

Is self-sacrifice ever mentioned in your workplace, along with service, commitment, excellence or respect? Probably not because, as one website suggests, it's not normal and very unhealthy, while another warns us that you'll sacrifice your own well-being.

There are positive views too, suggesting we are a little ambivalent and unsure about the idea of self-sacrifice. While there's probably not much mention of it at work, we quite unselfconsciously refer to it when it comes to our families and sports teams.

See how this plays out in the gospel: when Jesus mentions his suffering, death and resurrection to Peter, Peter takes him aside and argues with him. For Peter thinks he is the Messiah we had been led to expect, not this humiliating alternative Jesus puts to him.

We know the feeling: we often think we know better than Jesus what he's about. But Jesus responds to Peter, in no uncertain terms, that Peter has become an obstacle in God's way. Then, turning to the disciples Jesus says let each "take up his cross and follow me." Taking up our cross, which is Jesus's, we gradually come to befriend God and so begin, at moments, to discover the glory of the resurrection in our lives.

You can see why the prophet Jeremiah is tempted to become an obstacle in the first reading. He sounds off against God, at having to howl violence and ruin at the people, who hurl insult and derision back at him. But the more Jeremiah does God's bidding, the more he realises God is at the core of his life. The fire of God's love consumes him and, in the midst of his dire complaints, Jeremiah recognises, though he can hardly bear it, that God is there.

In the second reading, Paul speaks of how the Good News of the cross shapes our life together as a community. What do we have to let go of to make room in our lives for others, to learn that we belong to each other? This is what Paul is speaking of, learning to 'offer our own lives, together with Jesus, for the life of the world.'

It's what we celebrate in the sacrifice of the Mass and what we are sent out to do in our daily lives. In this way, we begin to discover 'the will of God and know what is good.' It's 'not normal', in the sense that it's not something we have initiated but is a gift of God.

However difficult the situation we may find ourselves in - firmly rebuked, derided, cast out - the readings encourage us to take heart, because it's there we're able to discover the cross and each other. The way into a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and with each other, is through the cross. It is to the cross that we commit ourselves to each time we make the sign of the cross.

Losing our lives for his sake, we find them. As Jesus makes clear, it's our new normal.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2023



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY** invite you to a **WINE & CHEESE AFTERNOON** at Crowley Activity Centre **THIS** 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.



### **NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

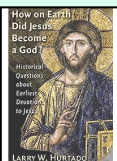
Overarching message: **'Every child in every community needs a fair go'**

This year National Child Protection Week will continue to champion the message—**'Every child in every community needs a fair go'**. This message captures the essence of National Child Protection Week which aims to promote a safe and supported life for every child, now and into the future.

**'Prevent child abuse and neglect'**



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



**BOOK CLUB:** Deacon Anthony is starting a theological book club and is looking forward for interested people to sign up as participants and hosts. Its 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 this 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 Ad-

min 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](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.



**First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9;***A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;  
 you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim:  
 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all  
 day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his  
 name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, impris-  
 oned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
 for you my soul is thirsting.  
 My body pines for you  
 like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
 to see your strength and your glory.  
 For your love is better than life,  
 my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

3. So I will bless you all my life,  
 in your name I will lift up my hands.  
 My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
 my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

4. For you have been my help;  
 in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
 My soul clings to you;  
 your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Rom 12:1-2;***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg  
 you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering  
 your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.  
 Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world  
 around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your  
 new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and  
 know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the  
 perfect thing to do.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of  
 our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which  
 we are called.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was des-  
 tined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of  
 the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and  
 to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter  
 started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,'  
 he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said  
 to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my  
 path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'  
 Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a fol-  
 lower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross  
 and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose  
 it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What,  
 then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his  
 life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?  
 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father  
 with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one  
 according to his behaviour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 5th ~ WEDNESDAY 6th ~ THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER~**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of  
 mercy to all who call to you

**Communion Antiphon:** How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

**FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER~ FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let us celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for from her arose the sun of justice,  
 Christ our God.

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, the Virgin will bear a son, who will save his people from their sins.

**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL****DID YOU KNOW?**

- This text marks the beginning of the fourth major section of Matthew's Gospel which follows Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and death.
- The word 'Satan' originally meant adversary or accuser. Later it came to mean personified evil. Here Jesus uses it figuratively of Peter who does not yet understand the meaning of Jesus' mission.
- The name Peter comes from the Latin word for rock. In last week's gospel, Jesus named Peter the rock on which the Church would be built. Today that rock has become a stumbling block in Jesus' path!

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

- What are the obstacles to Christ in your path? Are they of your own making or blocks put in place by circumstances or other people? What crosses do you bear for the sake of Christ?
- Share a story of a cross you have had to bear. Did it change you? In what ways did you become a stronger person? Has there been a time when you chose to face hardship or pain rather than avoid it?
- The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us immediately of the death of Jesus through which he won eternal life but it also reminds us of our own struggles and sufferings. 'We all have our cross to bear.' St Rose of Lima, a young South American saint of the 17th century, said, 'Apart from the cross there is no ladder to heaven.' What do you think she meant by this?
- Do you know others who are burdened by a cross at the moment? Try to lift a burden from someone this week.
- Recite a verse from this week's Psalm (62:8-9):

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God*

*For you have been my help;*

*In the shadow of your wings I rejoice.*

*My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.*

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

*www.cam.org.au/summit*