



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 (C)

31st August, 2025

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

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 THIS WEEK TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 12.00 noon Ballina

ADORATION FRIDAY
11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Days

St Gregory the Great
Wednesday

Spring Ember Day
Friday



We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING A CATHOLIC RESPONSE

All parishioners are welcome to learn about the recently introduced Voluntary Assisted Dying in NSW and the Catholic response. The session will cover three things:

- Catholic commitment to quality end-of-life care,
- an outline of the NSW law
- global perspectives on assisted dying.

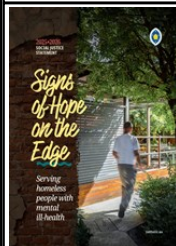
The presenter is Rev. Dr. Anthony Gooley, who is a deacon in Ballina parish and a theologian. He has worked for a time in the Catholic health sector and taught theological ethics.

Day and date: THIS Wednesday, September 3rd

Location: Parish Administration Building - Upper Room,

Time: commencing at 5.30 pm and concluding at 7.30 pm.

Please register by calling 02 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au to help us plan for hospitality.



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

31ST AUGUST 2025

'SIGNS OF HOPE ON THE EDGE'

Serving homeless people with mental ill-health

On this Social Justice Sunday, Australia's Bishops invite us to seriously consider our Christian responsibility to those who are in homelessness and mental ill-health. Like Jesus, we are to "offer service...to our sisters and brothers created in the image of God."

Yet it is more than practical assistance or knowing about situations and causes of poverty. We are called to get to know the names of people and to hear their stories. God is love, and love notices, listens and responds to each person uniquely.

As pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee, we walk as equals with each other, and work towards a society of dignity and inclusion for all. Let us build a culture of encounter with those living in homelessness and mental ill-health. Let us find and be **'Signs of Hope on the Edge.'**

Copies of this year's Social Justice Statement **'Signs of Hope on the Edge'** are available from the back of our two Churches or visit the website:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>



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

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Erick Quinteros **PHN: 0438 196 944**

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associates: email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

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

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Lee MacMaster - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:
SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

23rd Sunday Year C: 6th/7th September 2025
Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18; Psalm 89; Philipians 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Yvonne Head Mick Vella	Michael Piccoli Marie Sullivan	Richard Goss Nicole Sullivan	Maurice Gahan Warwick Manning
EMOHC	Katrina Miles Phil Chapman	Sue Hetherington	Deacon Anthony Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Peter Bowen
Offertory Procession			Ron Hughes Joan Hollingsworth	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Loretta Gardiman, Paddy Roache (*Ireland*), John Knightly (*Inverell*), Josephine Busutil (*Fairfield*), Dennis Frost (*Kewell*), Janet Smith, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS, TIME:** Anne Jackson, Pierre Bonello, Marie O'Brien, Colin O'Brien, Raymond Peacock

AND ALSO FOR: Danny Sheahan, Todd Sheahan, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, 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: Ian Lockton, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (*Sydney*), Paddy Mulgrew (*Northern Ireland*), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (*Brisbane*), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Daphne Sweeney, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre (*Ireland*), Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre (*London*), Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham,, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston,, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care,*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

1st September	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
1st September	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé <i>Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation</i>
2nd September	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face L H
2nd September	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
3rd September	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
3rd September	Wednesday 5.30 pm	Voluntary Assisted Dying meeting Upper Room Parish Admin
7th September	Sunday (Fathers' Day)	Parish Cuppa <i>Following 9.00 am and the 11.00 am Masses in our Church grounds</i>
7th September	Sunday 3.00 pm	Healing Mass
18th September	Thursday 5.30 to 7.30 pm	Alpha Parish Admin

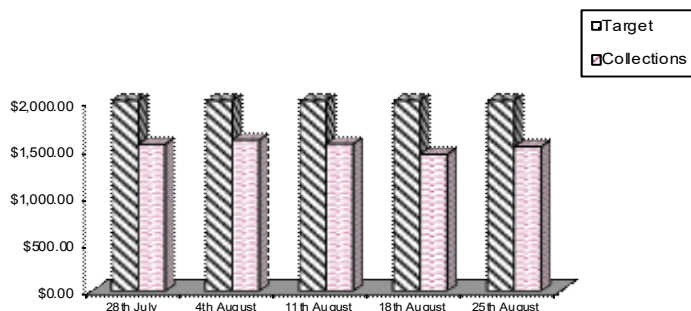
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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 3.65% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker
 87-89 River St Ballina 026686 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>	\$ 1,097.65
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 289.20
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,516.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble!

On December 5th, 2018, at the memorial service for US President George H W Bush, long time friend and former Republican Senator for Wyoming, Alan Simpson, remarked: "Those who travel the high road of humility in Washington DC are not bothered by heavy traffic!"

The line was met with laughter - and with a moment of reflection - in the Washington National Cathedral, packed with many who'd spent their careers climbing over the top of others to get to the top, scratching backs, doing deals, and cultivating 'useful' relationships for personal gain, while walking the seductive halls of power and politics in Washington DC. Sadly, very little has changed; not only in the political landscape, but across many areas of society. Humility, however, is an important virtue for authentic Christian self-understanding.

In this week's Old Testament reading, Ben Sirach advises his son to conduct his business affairs with humility and to make wisdom and reflection hallmarks of his life: "The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly." Then in the gospel, Jesus advises his audience to avoid seats of honour and posh guest-lists at parties, recommending humility to the leading Pharisees.

Humility means knowing who we are, and in relation to God and others; it means self-estimation according to truth. Talk to new parents about the wonder and awe they feel at the birth of a baby, the fruit of their love. Yet, they also sense a far greater mystery at work. We can't be overwhelmed by the beauty of creation or the wonder of human life, while at the same time remain under an illusion of our own superiority or self-sufficiency.

The reality of our own gifts and achievements, of God's grace and blessings at work in us, also give us confidence. We recognise our limits, but also our gifts. Our self-worth ought to reflect reverence for God who created us. Humility doesn't mean weakness. Rather, it means that we're self-aware and self-confident, comfortable in the presence of others, without feeling threatened.

Humility means being honest about ourselves, resisting flattery, admitting mistakes, and recognising others' accomplishments, while also rejecting false humility or self-loathing, and appreciating our achievements or God's achievements in us.

When Jesus tells people to practice humility, even at the dinner table, he's not saying be unconcerned with excellence and honours. Otherwise, his story about the humble man being promoted makes no sense. We do great things, deserving of honour, but not for worldly praise. In humility, Jesus abandoned the exaltation of heaven for the earthiness of living among us. In humility, Jesus reached out to the poor, the women, the sick and the outcasts. In humility, Jesus freely gave his life for us. Jesus calls us to humility: to know the truth of ourselves, to be in right relationship with one another and with God, and to allow ourselves to be lifted up by God.

"For everyone who exalts themselves will be humbled, but whoever humbles themselves will be exalted."

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2025

 <p>PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, NEXT Sunday 7th September, following the 9.00 am Mass and the 11.00 am Mass. Everyone is very welcome.</p>		 <p>YOU'RE INVITED Alpha Taster Evening An evening of good food, short video and friendly conversation. Date: Thursday 18th September Time: 5.30 to 7.30 pm Location: St Francis Xavier Parish Centre <i>John B: 'Initially I wanted to meet parishioners as I was fairly new to the parish .. I made new friends.'</i> <i>Maxine: 0429 669 029 ~ ~ Peter 0421 518 371</i></p>			
 <p>Charismatic Healing Mass 3.00 pm ~ Sunday~ 7th September, 2025 Celebrant Father Erick Quinteros St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.</p>		<p>SOLEMN PROFESSION OF SR THERESE - MARIE OF THE CHILD JESUS Mother and Sisters of the Carmelite Monastery cordially invite you to the Solemn Profession of Sr Therese-Marie of the Child Jesus on This Monday, 1st September at 11.00 am at the Carmelite Monastery. Bishop Greg Homeming will be the celebrant.</p>			
<p>FATHERS' DAY COLLECTION will be held next weekend 6th/7th September to assist the Bishop in caring for our sick and retired priests of the Diocese. Envelopes will be available in both churches.</p>		<p>PARISH YOUTH MASS Sunday 14th September our parish will celebrate the monthly Youth Mass at 5.00 pm in St Francis Xavier Church. Youth aged from 12 to 17 years are welcome to celebrate and encourage their families and friends to come to this Mass and celebrate with the faith filled youth of our parish.</p>			
<p>Read the new issue</p>   <p>Scan to read now lismorediocese.org/catholiclife/</p>		<p>CATHOLIC LIFE MAGAZINE IS NOW AVAILABLE in the foyer of the Church please take your FREE copy and also ONLINE lismorediocese.org/ catholiclife</p>			
<p>TAIZE THIS MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 12.00 NOON IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA <i>Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation of the heart</i></p>					
<p>DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Family Church Lennox Head.</p>					
<p>The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00 each</p>					



Interest Rate — 3.65%
For further information and our current rate,
Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on
1800 802 516

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20,28-29*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **(R.)**
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **(R.)**
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the

city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

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

Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14***A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke*

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES**TUESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER ~ THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER ~ FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER**

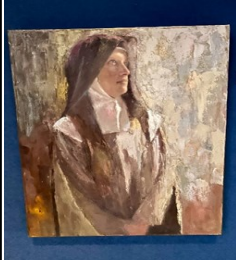
Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

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

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST GREGORY THE GREAT

Entrance Antiphon: Blessed Gregory, raised upon the throne of Peter, sought always the beauty of the Lord and lived in celebration of that love.

Communion Antiphon: This is the steward, faithful and prudent, whom the Lord set over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.

LISMORE JUBILEE ART PRIZE

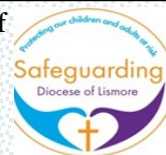
The winner of the People's Choice award for the Lismore exhibition of the Jubilee Art Prize is Geraldine Loong, for her oil on canvas painting "Sr Mary-Rose." Geraldine was inspired to participate in the art prize by her mum and she then visited the Carmelites where the sisters voted to have Sr Mary-Rose as the subject for the painting. Geraldine's artwork is truly beautiful, with a beautiful sense of light, softness, depth, and texture. Congratulations to Geraldine! Along with the other winners and finalists she will be presented with her award at an exhibition at St Carthage's Cathedral in December.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and people at risk in our parish community.

To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone (02) 6621 9444 or email:

safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au.

or the Ballina Parish Administration office : Phn 02 6681 1048 : email admin@sfxballina.org.au

**Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800**

The Kids Helpline is a free 24 hour telephone counselling service for children and young people aged between 5 and 25.