

# 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.

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**10th September, 2023**

**SAFEGUARDING 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**

**WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY MASS 12.00 noon**

**\*NO 12.00 NOON MASS THIS TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER\***

**RECONCILIATION**

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina St Francis Xavier Church**

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**Feast Days**

**St John Chrysostom**  
Wednesday

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
Thursday

**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
Friday



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

### PARISH NOTICES

**PLEASE NOTE: There is NO 12.00 noon Mass this Tuesday 12th September.**



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Nami Saskia Tanaka** daughter of Michael and Kanata.

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023:** The Parish of St Francis Xavier, Ballina and the Diocese of Lismore are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to build and support safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:  
[www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023](http://www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023)



**DON'T FORGET PARISH SPRING LUNCH TODAY 12.00 ~ 12.30pm START**



**BALLINA CATHOLIC menALIVE 'STAY CONNECTED' ~ BREAKFAST ~ IS CANCELLED.**

It is with deep regret that the organising committee have had to cancel the Breakfast which was to be held on Tuesday.

The Ballina menALIVE committee look forward to organising future events for the men of our Parish.

### 'THANK YOU' TO OUR PARISH LADIES

During this year we have already had several significant celebrations at our Sunday Parish morning teas.

Our parish ladies have cooked delicious cakes, slices and made hundreds of sandwiches. Thank you to each of you in supporting our clergy and parishioners to ensure we are a welcoming and inclusive faith community. There are many platters and plates to be collected from the 'Cuppa Tea' room. Please ask after Mass or at the Parish Admin Office if you have a plate to collect.



**'COME AND SEE' INFORMATION SESSION:** Are you interested to know more about our faith or know of someone who may like to become a catholic. There will be an information gathering on **Tuesday 10th October at 5.00 pm** in the St Teresa Room, Parish Admin Centre. For further information call 0438 435 566.

**Come and Taste THE BIBLE TIMELINE** starting with Adam & Eve, Noah... Abraham & Sarah, Isaac and Jacob. Every **Tuesday at 7.00 pm** or **Thursday 10.30 am** in the St Teresa Room. Phone Maxine 0429 669 029 for further information or just come along.

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: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 16th/17th September, 2023

Readings: Sirach 24:30-28:7; Psalm 102; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Yvonne Head Matthew Ritchie	Marie Sullivan Emma McFadden	Nicole Sullivan Julie McKinnon	Maxine Cole Maurice Gahan
EMOHC	Katrina Miles	Sue Hetherington	Margaret Tay Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
Offertory Procession			Mary Goss Ron Hughes	

## 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:** Peter Albertini, Bernard Evans, Elsie McMartin, Ab & Clare Mitchell

**AND ALSO FOR:** John Patrick Moreland, 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:** Noeline Conyngham (*Sydney*), 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, Dympna 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*

## UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

12th September	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
12th/14th September	Tuesday/Thursday 7.00 pm/10.30 am	The Bible Timeline
18th Sept & 9th Oct	Monday 12.00 noon	Taize ~ 45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted.
25th September	Monday 3.00pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
29th September	Saturday 6.30 pm	Parishioner Dinner @ Club Lennox
1st October	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa

## REFLECTION IN MEMORY OF 9/11

### AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE AT GROUND ZERO

"I did not see the devil's face at Ground Zero. I saw the face of God in the people working, caring, sweating, crying, rescuing, recovering, and being very spiritual in their very humanness."

-Franciscan Father Joseph Bayne, chief chaplain of New York's Erie County Emergency Services.

[www.911memorial.org/](http://www.911memorial.org/)

**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.

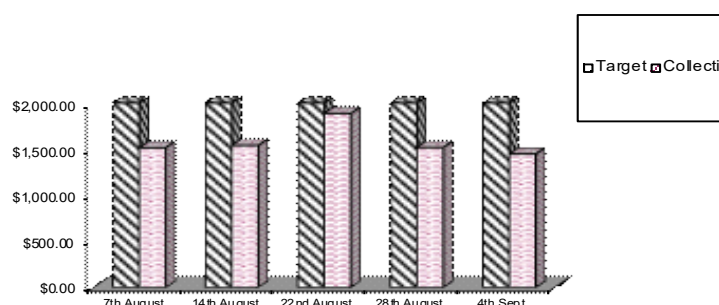
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- 2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish 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 Diocese Priests	\$ 777.95
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 410.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,446.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



## GOD WILL NEVER LET US GO

One of the most memorable animated movies in recent times is "Frozen." This hit Disney film, which had the song, "Let it Go," tells the story of two sisters, Anna and Elsa.

The elder sister, Elsa, struggles to discover who she really is. After accidentally injuring her sister with her magical powers, she escapes to the icy far north. However, her younger sister, Anna, cannot let Elsa go and goes in search of her.

Anna finds companions along the way - Kristoff, Olaf and the reindeer Sven - who help her to win Elsa back. Elsa repeatedly spurns Anna and her attempts to reach out, but the younger sister's determination to restore the relationship, even to the point of sacrificing herself, eventually leads to a happy reunion.

The determination of the younger sister to fight for the relationship resonates with the message of today's gospel according to Matthew. Jesus explains the importance of trying three times to restore and rebuild the relationship with the person who has done something wrong: First time, go it alone to have it out with them; the second time, bring one or two others; and finally bring everyone to try to win the person back.

The number three in the bible symbolises completeness, wholeness and perfection. By mentioning three times, perhaps Jesus is saying to keep trying until it's totally hopeless. In spite of trying everything humanly possible, and if there is still no change and the person persists in refusing to listen, Jesus says to then treat the person as you would a Gentile or a tax collector, in other words, an outsider, at least on a temporary basis.

But remember that, earlier in the same gospel, Jesus calls upon a person named Matthew, who is a tax collector, to be one of his disciples. This reveals that, while there are limitations to our own human attempts to restore relationships, no such limitations exist for God, for whom no one is out of reach. God will not ever stop inviting and receiving a person back into the fullness of his/her relationship with God.

The lyrics at the ending of "Let it Go" are: "Let the storm rage on, the cold never bothered me anyway." Sadly, unlike the movie, in real life there are no fairy tale endings and broken relationships are part and parcel of many people's lives.

When relationships are broken, there is often anger, resentment, pain and grief. There can also be feelings of loneliness and isolation and a sense of being left out in the cold. But God wants us to be in loving relationship with one another and with God everyday of our lives. Whatever the difficulties and disappointments we face in life, all we can do is to keep doing our best, knowing and trusting that God will never give up on us and will always be with us.

Mark Chia CSsR

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## QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS FROM 2023 WORLD YOUTH DAY

.....1 "Have the courage, then, to replace your doubts with dreams. Replace your doubts with dreams: do not remain hostage to your fears, but set about working to realise your goals!"

2 "In the Church there is room for everyone. "Father, but I am a wretch, is there room for me? There is room for everyone! All together now, everyone, repeat with me in your own language: Everyone, everyone, everyone."

3 "Dear friends, if God calls you by name, it means that for God none of us is a number, but a face and a heart."

4 "This is the starting point of World Youth Day, but above all it is the starting point of our lives. Young men and women, we are loved the way we are, without makeup."

5 "That is the only time, the only time that we are allowed to look down upon others, when we are offering to help them up."

6 "Mary's joy is twofold: she had just received the angel's message that she would welcome the Redeemer of the world, and she was also given the news that her cousin was pregnant. This is interesting: instead of thinking about herself, she thinks of the other. Why? Because joy is missionary, joy is not just for one person, it is for sharing something with others."

[www.lisboa2023.org](http://www.lisboa2023.org)



*Ephphatha Young Adults Retreat*  
(18 - 35 years old)

**29 - 30 October**  
**5PM - 4PM**  
**St. Augustine Catholic Parish**  
**12 Gordon Street, Coffs Harbour**



For more information, contact:  
Sr. Di - 0405327153

Register before 10 October

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516

**dif**  
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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: Ezekiel 33:7-9;***A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Rom 13:8-10;***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES****WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars for ever.

**Communion Antiphon:** We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

**Communion Antiphon:** When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

**FRIDAY 15th SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Simeon said to Mary: Behold, this child is destined for the ruin and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign of contradiction; and your own soul a sword will pierce.

**Communion Antiphon:** Rejoice when you share in the sufferings of Christ, that you may also rejoice exultantly when his glory is revealed.

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

• In the ancient world, the testimony of two witnesses was needed for any charge to be upheld in a civil or religious court. We see many examples of this practice in the gospels; for example, John 9:18.

• Formal exclusion from the Church is called excommunication. Today it is rarely used but over history, many people, even saints, have been excommunicated.

Galileo was excommunicated during the Renaissance for his views on science—later proved to be correct. This excommunication was rescinded only in recent years. Even Australia’s own St Mary MacKillop was once excommunicated!

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

• Discuss ways in which conflict is dealt with in our society, families or workplaces. Try to identify both the positive and negative elements we find. How can we handle this in a more productive manner?

• Have you ever been in the position of being torn between ‘turning a blind eye’ to a wrong-doing or confronting the culprit? Share your experiences and explain what you did to resolve the situation.

One of the greatest prayers about being a peacemaker is the prayer of St Francis of Assisi:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console to be  
understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*My soul is thirsting for you oh Lord my God.*