



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 (C)**

7th September 2025

**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

**The Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday**

**St John Chrysostom
Saturday**

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

Happy Fathers' Day

FATHERS' DAY COLLECTION will be held **THIS** weekend 6th/7th September to assist the Bishop in caring for our sick and retired priests of the Diocese.

Envelopes will be available in the pews of both churches.



PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, **THIS** Sunday 7th September, following the 9.00 am Mass and the 11.00 am Mass. *Everyone is very welcome.*



**Charismatic Healing Mass
3.00 pm ~ THIS Sunday ~
7th September, 2025**

Celebrant Father Erick Quinteros St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



**NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
Shifting Conversation to Action
7th—13th September, 2025**

NAPCAN is committed to embedding child safe organisational practice consistent with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, Child Safe Standards and the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. A child safe organisation is one that creates a culture, adopts strategies and takes action to promote child wellbeing and prevent harm to children and young people.

Aligning with this, NAPCAN commits to consciously and systematically:

- Creating an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is at the centre of thought, values and actions;
- Placing an emphasis on genuine engagement with, and valuing of children and young people;
- Creating conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people;
- Creating conditions that increases the likelihood of identifying any harm; and Responding to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.

www.napcan.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

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

**PARISH LIBRARY:
SCHOOLS:**

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

AGED CARE:

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

The Exaltation of the Cross Year C: 13th/14th September 2025
Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 77; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Yvonne Head Jeanette Wilkins	Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps	Wendy Hughes Brendon Clarke	Leanne Robbins Maxine Cole
EMOHC	Matt Ritchie Phil Chapman	Mark McDonald	Denis Miller Cathy Campbell	Kailani Tiernan
Offertory Procession			Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor	

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:** Lorna Ross, Ray Mariu, Peter Udy, Peter Albertini, Bernard Evans, Elsie McMartin, Ab & Clare Mitchell, **AND ALSO FOR:** 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

7th September	Sunday (Fathers' Day)	Parish Cuppa <i>Following 9.00 am and the 11.00 am Masses</i>
7th September	Sunday 3.00 pm	Healing Mass
8th September	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
9th September	NO Devotion for this week only	Devotion to the Holy Face L H
9th September	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
14th September	Sunday 5.00 pm	Youth Mass
18th September	Thursday 5.30 to 7.30 pm	Alpha Parish Admin
22nd September	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Meeting
30th November	Sunday 12.00 noon	Annual Parish Lunch

**POPE LEO'S XIV PRAYER INTENTION
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

For Our Relationship with All Of Creation.

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



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**

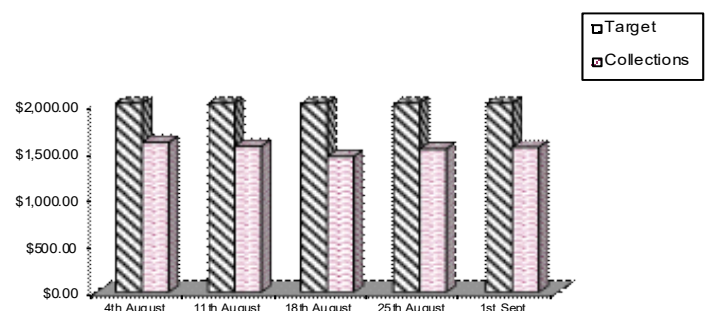
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit 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>	\$ 1,097.75
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 267.85
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,537.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Carrying the cross for Jesus

The good news revealed by Jesus includes many demanding and sometimes scandalous teachings. As the writer of today's first reading discerns, we probably would not have come to the same conclusions as God if we were in charge. When it comes to living how God wants us to, "who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom, and sent your holy spirit from above?"

To be a Christian is to believe that God has shown us who he is and what he wants from us, even if that means embracing what the rest of the world derides as shameful foolishness.

The second reading presents a perfect example of the wisdom of God colliding with the wisdom of the age. Paul, writing from prison, exhorts a fellow Christian, Philemon, to welcome and free his runaway slave, Onesimus. This was a powerfully countercultural appeal in a status-obsessed Greco-Roman society where slavery was as common as owning cars is today.

Runaway slaves could expect severe punishment or execution if they were caught. The culture was so dependent on the practice that society stood against any show of leniency to slaves. But Paul doesn't just ask Philemon to receive Onesimus back as his slave. He encourages Philemon to free the runaway slave and embrace him as a brother.

The wisdom of God teaches that baptism into Christ establishes an identity that is apart from and superior to all other kinds of social and cultural affiliations. Paul is encouraging Philemon to reject the entire social and moral order that his world was built upon, in order to testify to the love and wisdom of God.

In this week's gospel, Jesus takes it one rather startling step further and explains that following him requires a willingness to hate even our own relatives. Here Jesus is using a Jewish idiom that uses hyperbole to indicate a clear preference and priority. This is, after all, the same Jesus who commands us to love our enemies, let alone our own flesh and blood.

But the point still stands: God takes priority, even over every other good thing in our lives. Jesus is saying that to follow him means not letting rejection by or condemnation from the world, or even from our own loved ones, stop us from following him.

There will be times in our lives when we face difficult consequences for living the way God wants us to, whether it's because we're standing up to the social and moral injustices of our time or because we prioritise God over other things, activities and people. This is why Jesus said, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

If we believe that Jesus is who he says he is, the one who 'straightens our paths' and 'saves us by his wisdom', then let us join him on the road to Calvary and choose his ways over the ways of the world.

Joseph Doyle © Majellan Media 2025

RCIA and RRFC Network. We are planning to establish a network in the Diocese of Lismore for those who work in the ministry of RCIA for unbaptised people and RRFC for Christians entering into full communion with the Catholic Church. This **is not** for catechumens or candidates. The network will meet four times per year via Zoom for a two-hour session. Meetings will include formation for leaders and opportunities for participants to share ideas and practices. We want to build up the capacity of our parishes for this important ministry of mission and evangelisation. If you are someone in the parish leading these processes or working with those who do, this network is for you. This initiative is supported by Bishop Greg Homeming. The first meeting is **Tuesday October 7th, 7-8 pm**. Please register, with your name and parish, to receive a zoom link via email to Deacon Anthony Gooley agooley@lismore.catholic.org.au

Quote for Pilgrims of Hope "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." ... Pope Francis



'Come and See'

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

John B: 'Initially I wanted to meet parishioners as I was fairly new to the parish .. I made new friends.'



PARISH YOUTH MASS

Next Sunday 14th September,

5.00 pm St Francis Xavier Church Ballina.

Youth aged from 12 to 17 years are invited to this Mass together with friends and family.

All parishioners are very welcome to attend this Sunday Mass.

Hosting the Jubilee of Hope – Boat



Through the initiative of Fr. Paul Gooley, PP Port Macquarie, and with the Bishops blessing, a **boat** design has been used to symbolically represent the rivers, waterways and ocean in which many of our parishes exist aligning with the international symbol for this years **Jubilee of Hope**. The **boat**, through it's journey south in the diocese will visit Ballina from **Tuesday 16th September** where it will be displayed in our parish Church, then journey to our Schools then onto Holy Family Church Lennox Head. From Ballina Parish the boat will **depart Monday 29th September**, travelling to the Parish of MacLean.



DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS CANCELLED FOR THIS Tuesday ONLY

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00 each



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: Wisdom 9:13-18*A reading from the book of Wisdom*

What man can know the intentions of God?
 Who can divine the will of the Lord?
 The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.
 It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?
 As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?
 Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:*****(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.***

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**
2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**
3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**
4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17;*A reading from St Paul to Philemon*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of

mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

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

Let your face shine on your servant,
 and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 14:25-33***A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES
TUESDAY 9th TO FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

***A Father's Day Prayer****God our Father, we give thanks and praise for fathers, young and old.**We pray for young fathers who are newly embracing their role.**May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.**We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost and suffering.**May they know God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.**We pray for men who are not fathers but who still mentor and guide us with fatherly advice.*

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great who are no longer with us, but who continue to live in our memory, having nourished us with their love. Amen. Michele Franken Australian Catholics

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

A copy of the latest Safeguarding Newsletter is available from the Safeguarding information stand in the foyer

