

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.**

**24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)**

17th September, 2023

**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 Days
Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,
Paul Chông Ha-sang &
companions
Wednesday

St Matthew, apostle
Thursday

St Pius of Pietrelcina
Saturday

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

**‘CONGRATULATIONS’
FATHER ANSELM OKEKE**
On Tuesday 12th September Father Anselm became
an Australian citizen.

‘Congratulations on your citizenship,
we are so proud of you.

This is a momentous occasion and we
assure you of our prayers, love and continued support’.
From your parish community.



PARISH SPRING LUNCH

‘THANK YOU’

**PARISHIONERS FOR ATTENDING OUR
SPRING LUNCH LAST SUNDAY.**

It was a wonderful social gathering of our parish community,
with a beautiful meal shared in friendship.

Photos from the day are on our parish website:
www.sfxballina.org.au/noticeboard/parish-social-gathering



‘COME AND SEE’

If you, or someone you know
would like to learn more about the Catholic faith
come to our information evening:

Tuesday 10th October at 5.00 pm
in the St Teresa Room, Parish Admin Centre.
For further information call 0438 435 566.

**‘CURRY NIGHT’ FUNDRAISER ~ PRESENTATION PEOPLES
JUSTICE GROUP ~ DATE: FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER ~ TIME**
6.00 PM ~ COST \$20.00 PP ~ AT 54 SWIFT
STREET, BALLINA ~ RSVP 0433 120 260 ~
19/9/2023 ~ FOR CATERING PURPOSES



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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING 2023/2024 BEGINS SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

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

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

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: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 23rd/24th September, 2023
Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 1:20-24,27; Matthew 20:1-16

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>John Jarzynski Trish Bazar</i>	<i>Damien Kennedy Angela Beglin</i>	<i>Wendy Hughes Richard Goss</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Helen Cooney</i>
EMOHC	<i>Mick Vella</i>	<i>Kevin Sullivan</i>	<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Cathy Andrews Diane Evans</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Patrick Caldwell (*Brisbane*), Mary Freeman (*Adelaide*), Fr Adrian Noonan (*Adelaide*), Anne Jackson, Thomas Travers,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Bryan Donovan, John Nilon,

AND ALSO FOR: Maureen Donovan, 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: John McCoy, 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, Dymrna 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*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

18th Sept & 9th Oct	Monday 12.00 noon	Taize ~ 45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted
19th September	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee Club
19th/21st September	Tuesday/Thursday 7.00 pm/10.30 am	The Bible Timeline
22nd September	Friday 6.00 pm	Curry Night 54 Swift St Ballina
25th September	Monday 3.00pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
30th September	Saturday 6.30 pm	Parishioner Dinner @ Club Lennox
1st October	Sunday 2.00 am	Daylight Saving (clock forward one hour)
1st October	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
14th October	Saturday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Lennox Head Pubic Square Rosary (Cuppa to follow)

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.

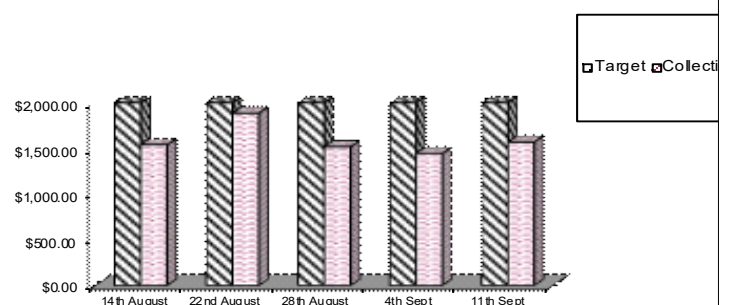
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 820.35
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 359.00
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,570.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



LOVE IS THE GREATER POWER

A wandering preacher's violent execution by a long-gone empire a couple thousand years ago is the salvation of the world? *That* eccentric rabbi is the king of heaven and earth? Are you joking? He said what? It is more blessed to give than to receive? He taught *who* will inherit the earth? Everybody knows what happens to the meek: they lose. Every time. If I strike you, and you turn the other cheek, I won. Right?

If they remind you of anything, today's readings from Sirach and from the gospel recall the equally startling line in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The petition makes our forgiveness by God contingent on our forgiving others. It's terribly sobering. It's also deeply rooted in the hopes and aspirations of the historical people of God in their (our) covenant with the Creator.

Let us reflect on the Christian account of true power: Anger slams a door, gentleness waits patiently; arrogance thrusts itself to the front, humility withdraws to the back; strife loudly divides into pieces, peace quietly smooths out; revenge grasps and squeezes, forgiveness lets go; hatred pushes, love embraces. Which is more powerful? "Love is stronger than death," says the author of the Song of Songs. If death is most evidently the greatest power in the world, then what is love? Love is stronger, greater, more powerful in what it effects than death.

Of course, love's greatness of power—even over death—is not evident. If you have suffered the death of a loved one, for example, you are certainly confronted with this fact. No matter how much you love him or her, death has caused a definitive breach between you. Love seems impotent, weak, *non-effective* in the face of death.

Death makes an aggressive claim to be the greatest and most universal power there is. Faith, however, says death is not definitive, not absolute. Faith says love is greater, definitive, absolute, universal.

If Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, if he overcame death, then his suffering on the Cross meant something. It meant, in the first place, that love is stronger than death. Faith seems faint, yet, in reality, it is the epitome of force. Forgiveness seems weak, yet, in reality, it enacts a profound degree of strength. Love appears impotent, but, in reality, it is the greatest power there is.

So, how does this reflection help us understand the line from the Our Father? If forgiveness is the greater social power—disarming antagonism, healing hostility, transforming enemies into partners and foes into friends—then in the prayer we are seeking to be the kind of people that belong to and live from his ultimate Kingdom—that Kingdom where love rules, where forgiveness is the condition of entry.

W Chris Hackett
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PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

Our parish in in need of musicians for our Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Mass.

If you, or you know of someone who could provide music please advise the Parish Office, or speak with Father following Mass.

All expressions of interest will be gratefully received.

2023 PUBLIC ROSARY

Again the **Nation Wide Rosary Chain** will be taking place across Australia and other countries on **Saturday 14th**

October – the Saturday nearest to the day Our Lady of Fatima worked the great "Miracle of the Sun" before the astonished eyes of 70,000 people in Portugal, Saturday 13th October 1917. Please join the Public Rosary! Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. We ask God's merciful blessing upon Australia and the world through the powerful intercession of our most Holy Mother Mary. Please join us in praying for our nation on **Saturday 14th October at 11.00 am**, venue to be advised.

Please contact Parish Office 6681 1048 or Marie (0409887677) for more information.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The next Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be

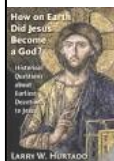
Monday 25th ~ September 3.00 pm,

Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street.

Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.

You will be most Welcome!

THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB



The next meeting will be **Thursday 5th October, at 6.30 pm**. Please purchase Larry Hurtado's book, *'How on Earth Did Jesus Become God?'* We will look at chapter one. Bring snacks to share. Contact the parish office for the meeting address, 6681 1048.

PARISH 'CUPPA'

Sunday 1st October
following the 9.00 am Mass,
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church.

Everyone is very welcome.



CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS—MOROCCO/LIBYA

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya.

Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food water and medical assistance.

Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.

Donate at: www.caritas.org.au



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**



Invest with peace of mind

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: Sirach 27:30-28:7;
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 14:7-9;
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER & FRIDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER ~

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST OF SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PAUL CHŎNG HA-SANG, AND COMPANIONS,

Entrance Antiphon: The blood of the holy Martyrs was poured out for Christ upon the earth; therefore they have gained everlasting rewards.

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father, says the Lord.

THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST MATTHEW

Entrance Antiphon: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: I did not come to call the just, but sinners, says the Lord.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

DID YOU KNOW?

• The sum of ten thousand talents would have been an impossibly huge debt. A Jewish talent was made of silver weighing 43,620 grams!

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- What needs healing and reconciliation in your life? Work on that this week.
- In the Lord's Prayer, we ask forgiveness from God and pledge to forgive those who wrong us. Pray it often this week.