

# St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,  
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,  
Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,  
94 Ballina Street,  
Lennox Head.

24th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (A)

13th September, 2020

Parish Weekend Mass  
Times

St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina (45 people)

Saturday Vigil — 5.00 pm  
Sunday — 9.00 am  
Sunday — 11.00 am

Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head (20 people)

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm  
Sunday—7.30 am

PLEASE REGISTER AT  
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND  
a weekend Mass by phoning  
6681 1048

by Friday at 3.00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY  
12 noon (45 people)  
Please register with Parish Office

RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church

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Feasts

The Exaltation of  
the Holy Cross  
Monday

Our Lady of Sorrows  
Tuesday

Sts Cornelius and Cyprian  
Wednesday

## The God of Pardons

The prophet Nehemiah (9:17) describes the Judeo-Christian deity as “a god of pardons”. This expression is later picked up by other prophets (e.g., Joel 2:13), the Psalmists (86:15; 103:8–14), and even St Paul (2 Corinthians 1:3) – with good reason. Both the Ancient Israelites and the early Christians experienced the presence of God in significant events of liberation, mercy and forgiveness.

The God revealed to Moses was concerned for the plight of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and wanted to see them liberated. The God that the Jewish prophets and mystics encountered in their prayer was one who sought to lead Israel both into and out of Exile in Babylon to cleanse them of their sins. The divine Word that the Apostles found expressed in Jesus was an offer of forgiveness to sinners and liberation from death.

The collective wisdom of the Biblical record is that the defining characteristics of Yahweh are mercy, compassion and forgiveness. One of the most beautiful expressions of this insight is found in Exodus 3:6-7, which describes Yahweh as “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness”.

This is a key passage highlighting the fact that the concepts of mercy and forgiveness are related to that of faithfulness; that is, the faithfulness or “steadfast love” of Yahweh vis-a-vis his covenantal promises. The story of the Bible is one of a people who con-

stantly fail to live up to their side of the covenant with Yahweh; but Yahweh continues to forgive them and call them back into relationship.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the people of Yahweh are free to do as they will. The parable Jesus tells in today's gospel contrasts the merciful actions of a king with the duplicity and miserliness of his servant who, despite being the recipient of royal largesse, demands immediate payment from his debtors. The king reacts by renegeing on his promise of forgiveness.

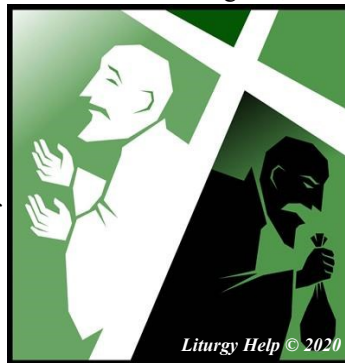
The point of this story is that repentant sinners are forgiven, while the impenitent, whose lives are not transformed and who continue to act without mercy to others, are not. God does not show mercy without expecting a *quid pro quo*.

This story illustrates one of the lines of Matthew's Our Father, where Jesus suggests that we pray: “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12 NABRE). Similarly, in the Matthean Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims “blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matt 5:7).

The message of today's readings is that the first and best path to evangelisation is to mirror in our own lives the characteristics of our God, who has consistently been revealed to be a “god of pardons” who is “slow to anger” and always ready to forgive the frailties of humankind.

Ian J Elmer

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Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship .

Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their  
Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Group Coordinator: Amelia Kearney

Email: parishcouncil@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](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

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Lloyd Cuthbert, Marie Maloney Valerie McCoy, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Peter Albertini, Bernard Evans, Elsie McMartin, Bryan Donovan, Ab & Clare Mitchell

**AND ALSO FOR:** James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Kathleen Kelly, 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:** Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Margaret Perkins (*Tweed Heads*), Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, Gloria Greguric, Pauline McLachlan, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, Greg Shore, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

### **THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH**

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Under the current restrictions a maximum of 45 people can be in the Church at any time. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

**CONFIRMATION:** TBA

**RECONCILIATION:** TBA.

**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

**HOSPITAL:** If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

#### **GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.**

- Ensure you have registered prior to attending Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
  - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
  - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
- **Sit on or between the two crosses (X) allocated in the pew** to comply with the required social distancing rules – two people to a pew (*families can sit together*). Please **do not** sit at the end of pews.
- 45 people maximum in Ballina Church and 20 people maximum at Lennox Head church at one time.
  - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
- Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
  - You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.

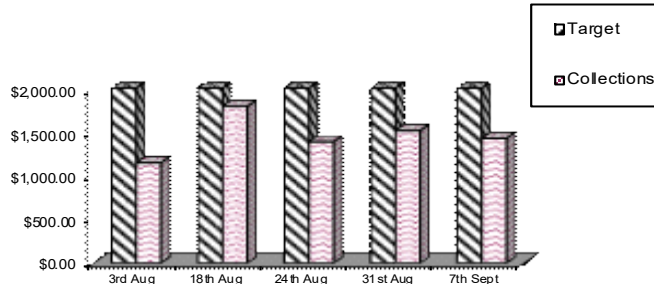
**RESPECT is required at all times for ALL people attending our Churches ..... THANK YOU**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

#### **THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$	947.85
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$	162.40
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$	1,426.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target			\$ 2,009.00



#### **DIF PAYS 0.90% 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

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM:** If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided. Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

# Parish Notices

**PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.**

## 'Congratulations'



to all the children from SFX Parish who have received their First Holy Communion.



### BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org), or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code: **Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am**



### CATECHISTS MEETING

Upper Room, Parish Administration Building  
**Tuesday 20th October ~10.00 am.**  
All Catechists and helpers are encouraged to attend. Morning Tea provided.



### UNABLE TO ATTEND MASS WOULD YOU LIKE HOLY COMMUNION AT YOUR HOME?

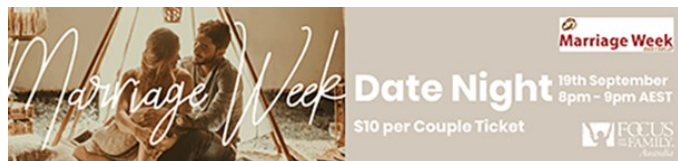
Father Anselm is offering to take Holy Communion to those in our Parish who are unable to attend a weekday Mass or Sunday Mass. This will be available on Mondays between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving Holy Communion please ring the Parish Admin Centre on 6681 1048.

Due to the uncertainty of the duration of the pandemic and people missing their Sacraments, Father Anselm is hoping to reach these parishioners.

### Marriage Week—13th-19th September

Coinciding with Marriage Week 2020, Focus on the Family Australia is hosting an online Virtual Date night on September 19th. To register, go to the link below. Once you register you will be emailed a pre-date pack with ideas, recipes and templates for the night, marriage meditation devotions and extra marriage material. There will be access to a Zoom broadcast on the night 8-9pm, with live entertainment by Christian comedian, Ben Price.

<https://www.marriageweek.org.au/mailw/campaigns/qm9800gh16666/track-url/ho494wzrc3c80/fic964bf118dac4ddd8bbb33517a3d23ba6967eaa>



*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*— 1Corinthians 13:4-8  
<https://marriageweek.org.au/>

### POPE TO SIGN NEW ENCYCLICAL IN ASSISI



Google image

Pope Francis will travel to Assisi next month to sign an encyclical on the social, political and economic obligations that flow from a belief that all people are children of God. Source: CNS.

The Vatican press office, confirming the Pope's October 3rd trip, said the document will be titled *Fratelli Tutti* in Italian. In English, the phrase could be translated as "Brothers and Sisters All," but apparently it is inspired by what is known as St Francis of Assisi's "sixth admonition" to the friars, all of whom were men. Conventual Franciscan Fr Mauro Gambetti, custodian of the Assisi convent, said the document "will indicate to the world a style for the future and will give the church and people of goodwill the responsibility for building it together."

"The Pope is clearly inspired by Francis of Assisi who, in following Jesus, recognised in fraternity, lived under the sign of mutual and loving service, the horizon of a fulfilled and happy humanity," Fr Gambetti added.

The encyclical is expected to echo many of the themes Pope Francis has been discussing in his general audience talks on Catholic social teaching in light of the pandemic: human fraternity, the equal dignity of all people, the preferential option for the poor, the universal destination of goods and the obligation of solidarity. Care for the environment and the virtue of peacemaking also are expected to be part of the encyclical.

After Pope Francis signs the document on the eve of the feast of St Francis, the text is expected to be published in a variety of languages. *Published: 7th September 2020 Cath News*



### CLAIM THE DATE 2020 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY

10.00 am. Saturday 10th October  
Holy Family Church grounds  
Lennox Head.

Please bring your own chair.

Covid-19 regulations will be in place.

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

**MASKS:** It is recommended by State Government and endorsed by Bishop Greg to wear a mask while at Mass.

**Prayer of the Church and Rosary:** is held every Saturday at **9.00 am** St Francis Xavier Church

**Ballina CCR Intercession Mondays** from 9.30 am to 10.30 am in the Anawim Room.

**Prayer Meeting:** Mondays 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room

**Cenacle, Marian Movement of Priests** ~ Ballina Cenacle if you would like to join this prayer group  
Please contact the Parish Administration Office for further details 6681 1048



**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: Romans 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.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion :** My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. [melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)



**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS**

**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**
- **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



**Invest** with peace of mind

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



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