

# 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.

25th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (A)

20th 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

St Matthew, apostle  
Monday

St Pius of Pietrelcina,  
Wednesday



## First is last and last is first

In the quotation, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways ...”, the prophet Isaiah sets the scene for the parable of Jesus that Matthew shares with us in today’s gospel. Trade Union leaders would not readily choose the story to promote the cause of equal rights and justice for their workers, yet the owner of the vineyard has honoured the contracts he made and the story reinforces all that Jesus does and teaches.

Jesus is forever seeking out those who have lost out in life or made a mess of their lives and adjusting their perspective and their prospects. Just think of the story of the Prodigal Son or the number of times that Jesus eats and drinks with those whom society has already cast aside. And every time he does this, Jesus calls forth the wrath of the self-righteous.

Many years ago I was introduced to the notion of ‘lateral thinking’ by a very entertaining speaker, who could tie his audience up in knots by presenting a series of conundrums, to which the answers were obvious but only when he gave them to you! He explained the theory of Dr Edward de Bono, who had realised that we all have a tendency to pigeon-hole our knowledge; filing it in such a way that particular problems lead us instinctively to pull out what we think is the appropriate file for the answer. His theory

was that the more creative we are, the more likely we are to be able to look along the files – laterally – and find the correct solution. My point is that, if we are to understand the teaching of Jesus, we need to reorder our files and take Isaiah at his word, realising that God’s ways are not our ways. I would suggest that we can only begin to unlock the mystery when we recall Jesus’ warning that we should not judge others, and that we would do well not to try to take

the splinter from another’s eye until we have removed the plank from our own.

In the parable Jesus leaves us to fill in the gaps. The owner of the vineyard asks those who are still hanging around at the end of the day why they have been idle. We can only surmise why they had not been hired. All that matters in God’s topsy-turvy world is that it is never too late for a God

of loving compassion and generosity. Long before Jesus came, Isaiah had got the message and was urging the wicked to let the Lord “take pity” on them.

Which of us dare suggest we do not need God’s compassion? And once we accept that, we might be able to understand the paradox of the last being first and the first last.

Timothy J Buckley  
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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 PASTORAL COUNCIL:  
PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Maria da Costa Freitas, Lloyd Cuthbert, Marie Maloney Valerie McCoy,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** John Nilon,

**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>	\$ 412.90	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; background-color: white; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Target                 <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Collections             </div>
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 150.90	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,179.00	
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.**



## CATECHISTS MEETING

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

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021

**CONFIRMATION:** Bishop Greg has announced that from 2021 Confirmation will begin in grade 3.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Will be for those in grade 4.

This will ensure smooth continuance of our Sacramental Program.

Dates for 2021 Confirmation will be advised at a later date.

*In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to*



**“TAKE FRESH COURAGE.”**

**This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary’s canonisation.**

**During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary**

**MacKillop of the Cross.**

**For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit [marymackilloptoday.org](http://marymackilloptoday.org)**

MARY MACKILLOP

*today*



## SISTERS OF MERCY FEAST DAY

this Thursday 24th September

**Sr Aileen Larkin, Sr Judy Quirk,  
Srs Larelle & Grace Laverty**

We hope you have a Happy Feast Day  
Love and prayers from the parish.



## 2020 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY

Again the **Nation Wide Rosary Chain** will be taking place across Australia and other countries on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**

**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. The Australian Rosary Crusade will ask for God’s merciful blessings upon Australia through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Fatima.

Come and join us - **11.00 am—12.00 noon,**

**Holy Family Church grounds Lennox Head.**

Please bring your own chair. Covid-19 regulations will apply.

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.



## 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**



## 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.

*‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me’*

*(Matthew 25:35)*

## ‘WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHERS ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION’

•The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to live a dignified life in their homeland. Tragically millions of people around the world are displaced. This typifies and reveals the imbalances and conflicts of the modern world. War, natural calamities, persecution and discrimination of every kind have deprived millions of their home, employment, family and homeland.

•The Catholic Church teaches that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity is inalienable. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

•Jesus identifies Himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Mt 25:35). The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has in some way united himself to every person, whether or not one is aware of this. Christ will consider done to himself the kind of treatment that is reserved to any human person, in particular, to the least among them, the stranger.

*Excerpt from Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office pamphlet.  
[www.acmro.catholic.org.au](http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au)*



## 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)

**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: Isaiah 55:6-9

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*  
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will  
take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.  
The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.**

1. I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

### Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27;

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians*  
Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by  
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is  
Christ, but then death would bring me some-  
thing more; but then again, if living in this body  
means doing work which is having good results  
– I do not know what I should choose. I am  
caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be  
with Christ, which would be very much the bet-  
ter, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more  
urgent need for your sake.  
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would  
be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel: Matthew 20:1-6

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is  
like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire work-  
ers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the  
workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his  
vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw  
others standing idle in the market place and said to  
them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you  
a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour  
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and  
did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he  
went out and found more men standing round, and  
he said to them, "Why have you been standing here  
idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they an-  
swered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard  
too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said  
to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their  
wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with  
the first." So those who were hired at about the elev-  
enth hour came forward and received one denarius  
each. When the first came, they expected to get more,  
but they too received one denarius each. They took it,  
but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came  
last" they said "have done only one hour, and you  
have treated them the same as us, though we have  
done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He an-  
swered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not  
being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denari-  
us? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the  
last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to  
do what I like with my own? Why be envious because  
I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the  
first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



### 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 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.