

# 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.

**26th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (A)**

**1st October, 2023**

**OCTOBER MONTH OF  
THE HOLY ROSARY**

**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**

**The Holy Guardian Angels**  
Monday

**St Francis of Assisi**  
Wednesday

**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Saturday

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

### PARISH NOTICES



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** begins **THIS** Sunday 1st October.  
Clocks are moved **forward** one hour.  
Daylight saving will **end** Sunday 7th April, 2024.

**'CONGRATULATIONS' AND 'HEARTFELT THANKS' TO MARY AND JANE O'BRIEN** and to all who joined us last Friday evening on the success of the Curry Night fundraiser. **\$1,800** was raised and has been shared between Sr Jane Keogh csb and Sr Denise Laverty rsm. Jane set up Manus Lives Matter in 2015 and continues to support the men who are now in Port Moresby. Jane describes their situation as 'damaging and dire'.

Denise works with asylum seekers who are living in Brisbane with no means of support.

Both are grateful for your generous support which helps pay for phone credit, medical and dental needs, energy bills etc and as Jane says 'makes a critical difference.'

*Sr Anne Shay pbvm.*

**PARISH 'CUPPA'** This Sunday 1st October following the 9.00 am Mass, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church **Everyone is very welcome.**



### AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2023

The Bishops of Australia encourage all Catholics to participate in the many opportunities for learning and dialogue about the referendum. The ACBC and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council join in calling for this spirit of love to be evident in our approach to the Voice referendum and beyond. Explore the Voice websites developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organizations, especially NATSICC's *indigenousvoice.church* and read the bishop's social justice statement at:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/08/22/social-justice-statement-2023-24/>



### THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be **THIS 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.

**BIBLE TIMELINE:** Is now in recess due to the school holidays.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY:** This Monday 2nd October is a public holiday. The Parish Administration Office will be closed. If you are in urgent need of a priest please call: **0423 445 639**

### Please Note

**TAIZÉ** will not be held this Monday 2nd October due to the long weekend. Taizé will resume Monday 9th September at 12.00 noon SFX Church.

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

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke

**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: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: 7th/8th October, 2023**  
**Readings : Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 79; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43**

	<b>Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>Sunday 9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Pauline Fingleton Mick Vella</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Wendy Hughes</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Leanne Robbins</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Murray Deeps</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Amy Derrick Frank</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Lynette Ford, Patricia Brimson, Kaysie Arnadall, (*Lismore*), John Preddey, Patrick Caldwell, Mary Freeman, Fr Adrian Noonan  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Margaret Rizzo, William Curtain, Lyndall Pavey, Kitty Gorton, Betty McNiff,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Dorothea Preddey, Ab & Clare Mitchell, John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat 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:** Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham (*Sydney*), Mick Ronan, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons (*Sydney*), Bill Duffy, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlback 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, Dymna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023**

<b>1st October</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Cuppa</b>
<b>3rd Oct</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee Club</b>
<b>9th Oct 23rd Oct</b>	<b>Monday 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Taizé ~ 45 min of praise meditation &amp; music uninterrupted</b>
<b>10th October</b>	<b>Tuesday 5.00 pm</b>	<b>'Come and See' Information session</b>
<b>10th/12th October</b>	<b>Tuesday/Thursday 7.00 pm/10.30 am</b>	<b>The Bible Timeline</b>
<b>14th October</b>	<b>Saturday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm Cuppa to follow</b>	<b>Pubic Rosary Grounds of Lennox Head Church</b>
<b>22nd October</b>	<b>Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Mission Sunday</b>

**The Rosary:** "The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." – Pope St. Pius X  
[www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons](http://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons)

**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.

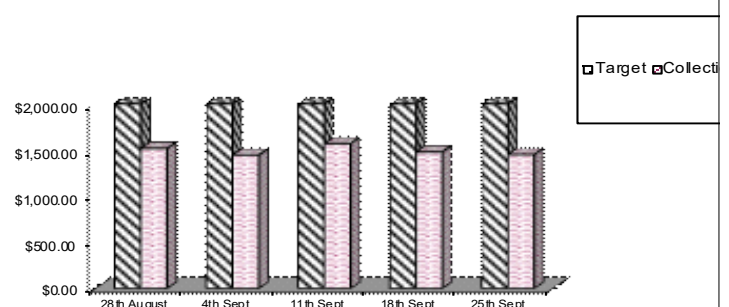
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier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

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 803.85
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 413.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,451.25
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



### PRAY THAT GOD WILL WALK WITH US

Many parents today could empathise with the father asking each of his two sons to work in their vineyard. It is not an unreasonable request. Presumably their livelihood relies on the income from the vineyard, and the father speaks not harshly but with affection, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today."

Jesus does not explain the motivation of the two sons, but the defiance of the first son in initially refusing to work in the vineyard would have hurt his father. Jesus does not say why the son then 'thought better of it' and went to work. Perhaps it was seeing the pain on his father's face. The point for Jesus is that he changed his mind. The second son instantly agreed to his father's request but then reneged.

As St Matthew recounts, Jesus is telling this story in a contest with the chief priests and elders of the people who have challenged his authority to be teaching and acting as he does. So, he tells this story and asks them to decide who did the father's will. Of course, they answered: the one who went to work in the vineyard.

In words that must have shocked and outraged his opponents, Jesus declares: 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you'. At that time, tax collectors collaborated with the oppressive Roman authorities and made money for themselves as well. They were socially despised and outside the Jewish law, like the prostitutes.

Yet these despised people were among those who heard and believed the message of John the Baptist, 'a pattern of true righteousness', while the chief priests and elders, the very ones who should have been most alert to the message of John, refused to accept him. They were like the second son who said he would go to the vineyard, but then refused. Jesus is declaring that God's loving embrace is available to everyone, especially those who feel most excluded, or who are 'seekers' drawn by some deep inner longing.

This incident of Jesus arguing with these religious leaders also carries a warning for us today. We too can be deaf to the unexpected call of God. Moreover, Jesus insists that responding to the father's will is not just a matter of words, but of action. Actions speak louder than words.

So, we pray that God will truly walk with us, and help us live with insightful concern for others, especially in this traumatic year that has included extensive bushfires, COVID-19 and economic distress for many.

Let us also embrace the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* to play our part in protecting our planet and environment, while striving for a more just world with social and economic systems that serve everyone well.

Bruce Duncan CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

### 2023 PUBLIC ROSARY

#### October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

To honour our Blessed Mother and draw closer to her son Jesus, we are invited to pray at least one decade of the Rosary every day.

Our Lady's request at Fatima was to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world.

'According to the belief and experience of many pilgrims, if not of all, **Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light that protects us, here as in almost no other place on earth. We need but take refuge under the protection of the Virgin Mary and to ask her, as the *Salve Regina* teaches: "show unto us... Jesus".**

<https://catholicsstrivingforholiness.org/pope-francis-on-our-lady-of-fatima/>

Please join us in praying for our nation on **Saturday 14th October at 11.00 am**, in the grounds of Holy Family Church Lennox Head. 'Cuppa' to follow.

*All families and children welcome.*

**Come and View Fatima Movie ~ "13th Day"**

**THIS Wednesday 4th October, 7.00 pm, at 9 Stewart St, Lennox Head.**

Please contact or Marie (0409 887 677) or Parish Admin 6681 1048 for more information.



Hearts on Fire  
FEET ON THE MOVE



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor)

In three weeks' time, Catholic Mission will share an opportunity for you to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste as they continue to provide an essential community project that addresses the gaps in care and well-being in rural communities like Venilale.

**This work simply will not be possible without your support. We hope you will accept this invitation to make a real and lasting impact for those in need.**

**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 6621 9444 or Email: safe-



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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: Ezekiel 18:25-28;***A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Phil 2:1-5 (Shorter version)***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing

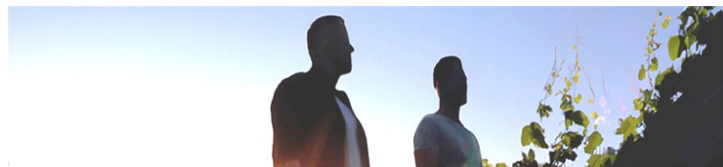
which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

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

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 3rd October, THURSDAY 5th October and FRIDAY 6th October**

**Entrance Antiphon:** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**Communion Antiphon:** Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

**WEDNESDAY 4th October ~ FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Francis, the man of God, left his home behind, abandoned his inheritance and became poor and penile, but the Lord raised him up.

**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

- The 'chief priests and elders' are the leaders of the Jewish religious community. They were the ones with training and were learned in the Scriptures. They should have known and recognised what is from God but they are like the son who says 'yes' and fails to carry out God's will.
- Prostitutes and tax collectors are often bracketed together because both were considered 'sinners': prostitutes for their sexual behaviour and tax collectors because they cooperated with the Roman authorities and cheated their own people.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

- Have you ever failed to recognise the truth of a situation? Have you ever said you were going to do something and then have not done it? How did you feel in breaking the promise?
- Share stories of experiences when you said 'yes' to something without the intention of actually doing it. Or of a time you felt pressured to agree to something when you wanted to say 'no'. Or of failing to do something when you knew you should act.
- Pray this little prayer often this week.

'When our words say 'yes' but our actions say 'no', forgive us Lord.  
When our words say 'no' but our actions say 'yes', encourage us Lord,  
so that our response to you might be perfect in word and deed.'