

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



**St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street,
Ballina**

welcome

**Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.**

**2nd Sunday of Advent
Year A**

4th December, 2022



'WELCOME'

**Weekend Mass Times
Ballina**

St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm

Sunday — 9.00 am

Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm

Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

at St Francis Xavier Church

**Tuesday to Friday
12.00 noon**

RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church**

Feast Day this week

**Immaculate Conception of
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Thursday



Serving the poor with love

John the Baptist was quite a celebrity around Jerusalem. People came from everywhere to see this strange man who lived on locusts and wild honey, dressed in camel hair, and preached the need for repentance. He even instituted a new ritual of baptism – pouring water on people's heads – as a sign of forgiveness for those who confess their sins and genuinely seek a new way of life.

But John remained ever suspicious of people's motives. So, on seeing a number of Sadducees and Pharisees coming for baptism, he questioned their motivation calling them a "brood of vipers"! John never attended that class on "How to win friends and influence people"! He was more interested in confronting people with their sins so they may change their ways. The fact that people continued to come to the river Jordan to hear John preach, they knew his message to be true.

While John did not tire from preaching his message of repentance, he was equally insistent on announcing the coming of the Messiah – the one who will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and pronounce judgment upon the world – separating the 'good wheat' from the 'evil chaff'. As John insisted, he was not worthy to carry the sandals of this promised messenger of God. This promise of a coming divine messenger is also expressed in the prophecy of Isaiah who

envisages a new beginning with a ruler-king blessed with wisdom, insight, compassion and fear of the Lord. He will inaugurate God's reign by bringing judgment on the wicked and justice for the poor. The whole of creation will be transformed so that violence is replaced by harmony as in images of the wolf and lamb or calf and lion living and playing together!

In the real world where you and I live, God's reign of justice, peace and harmony is evidently far from reality. So, how are we Christians to judge Jesus as the promised Messiah? Evidently, we need to concede that his ministry is incomplete. Furthermore, it is you and I, the disciples of Jesus, who are called

upon to continue his ministry as we await the messianic completion of creation at the end-of-time. Sometimes problems facing us and our world appear so big, we can easily despair. In today's Letter to the Romans, we are told everything written in the scriptures teaches us "something about hope" so that, whatever life's challenges, we know we will be "helped by God".

In the words of Pope Francis: "Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God". Let us then heed the message of today's readings by seeking God's love and forgiveness as we prepare to celebrate the Christ-coming. And let us put this message into action through our loving service of the poor.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan 2022



Liturgy Help © 2012

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
***AFTER HOURS MOBILE:** 0423 445 639*

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney **Email:** john@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Bianca McInnes **Email:** bianca@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

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

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: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A: 10th/11th December, 2022
Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Bryan Marriott Trish Bazar	Richard Goss Wendy Hughes	Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan
EMHC	Peter Fear	Denise Miller & Cathy Campbell	Helen Cooney
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Sue Hetherington Mick Vella	Marie Sullivan	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marilyn Lannan (Melbourne), Joan Leach, Fr Louis Molloy SM, Beverley Cathro (Berry), Bob Johnson (Sydney), Rose Norris,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

AND ALSO FOR: Jim Walsh, Mary Casey, 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, 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: Carmel Hackett, Michael Harris, Kristine Bannerman, Leila Atken (Sydney), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson 1 yr (Brisbane), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunt Julia Paden, Louise King, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John Moreland, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.
 (Names of those who are ill will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS

7th & 9th December	Wednesday 5.30 to 6.30 pm Friday 10.00 to 11.00 am	"The Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist"
December 5th, 12th, & 19th	Monday 10.30 to 11.30 am & 3.00 to 4.00 pm	'Incarnate' Advent Sessions
December 16th	Friday 12.00 noon	Anointing Mass
December 17th	Saturday 9.00 am to 11.15 am	Parish Advent Reflection
Save the Date 11th February 2023	Saturday Time tba All Welcome!!	'Coming Closer to Christ through Prayer'

TOGETHER WE STAND

At St Carthages Cathedral, Lismore
SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 2.00 PM
 Singing ~ Headliners Chorus
 Guest soloist ~ Warren Whitney, Organist
 Entry by donation with proceeds to St Carthages Flood Appeal.

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 (1st collection). Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

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.

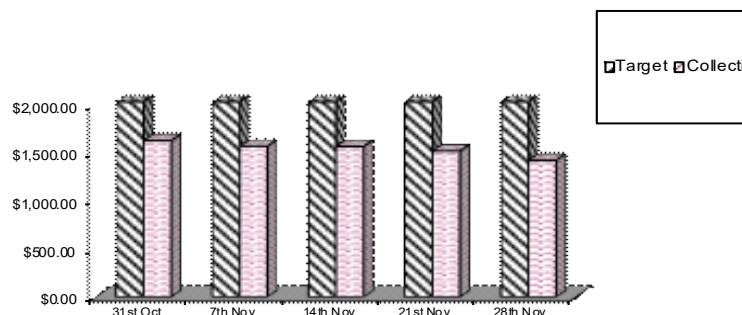
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY
- By making an EFTPOS donation — 1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name
- 2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you use your Planed Giving number as reference, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

DIF PAYS 1.75% 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	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 787.35
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 460.75
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,399.55
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



Parish Notices

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

PARISH ANOINTING MASS ~
Friday 16th December
12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

5.00 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
5.30 pm— Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
7.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

CHRISTMAS DAY

7.30 am — Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
9.00 am — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
11.00 am—St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

ADVENT WREATH Lighting 2nd Candle



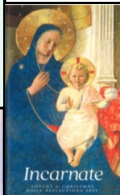
PRIEST: Lord Jesus yours is the voice that calls us back from the wilderness
PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you baptise us with water and the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you are the bearer of Good News

PEOPLE: COME LORD JESUS



2022-2023 YEAR A ~ 'Incarnate' Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections. Now available from the Parish Admin Office at \$5.00 each.

If you would like to be included in a group please join a group Mondays from 10.30 to 11.30 am or 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the St Teresa Room Parish Admin Centre until 19 December.

Offertory Hymn:

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS NOW UPON ME

The Spirit of the Lord is now upon me
 To heal the broken heart and set the captives free,
 To open prison doors and make the blind to see.
 The spirit of the Lord is now on me. Anon



Christmas Roster Year A: 24th/25th December, 2022

Christmas Eve Vigil

Christmas Day

	5.00 pm Vigil Ballina	7.30 am Lennox Head
Readers	Nicole Sullivan John Jarzynski	Damien Kennedy
EMHC	Adam Sullivan
	5.30 pm Vigil Lennox	9.00 am Ballina
Readers
EMHC	Cathy Campbell
	7.30 pm Vigil Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Trish Bazar	Warwick Manning
EMHC

PARISH YOUTH GROUP DONATION BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Our St Francis Xavier Parish Youth Ministry is a growing, thriving youth group that relies on your generous support. Your donations can help support initiatives such as:

- Materials for our regular youth events
- Food, items and other resources for our activities
- Financial support for youth in need
- Materials needed for conferences, youth camps, World Youth Day and other events.

Thank you.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Ballina Conference 'JESSE TREES'

The Society will be distributing **FOOD VOUCHERS** to needy people this Christmas, which allows our clients to purchase food of **their own choice** for themselves and their families. They will not be able to purchase non-food items such as alcohol or tobacco with our vouchers.

If you wish to help us in assisting these families, please take one of the envelopes from the 'Jesse Trees' in the Churches of St Francis Xavier and Holy Family.

The envelope with donation may be returned to the Vinnies shop at 7 Martin Street, during week days, business hours 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Saturday 9.00 am until 12.00 noon.

Please return envelope by: **MONDAY 19th DECEMBER, 2022** for distribution before Christmas.

We **thank you** for your generosity in sharing of God's gifts and helping to make a family's Christmas this year a little brighter. Every dollar goes directly to those most in need in our local community.

St Vincent de Paul Society St Francis Xavier Conference Ballina

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048

Marian Cenacle: Monday 11.00 am Anawim Room enquiries to Narelle King via the Parish Admin Centre

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday
Sisterhood: Mondays 10.30 am Parish Administration Building Contact Leanne Robbins via Admin Office.

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church

Parish Youth Group: 7.00pm Saturday evening 6.00 pm Vigil Mass Upper Room Parish Admin Centre.

Contact Bianca McInnes 6681 1048

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029

Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head: 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each

other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mt 3:1-12***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER

TUESDAY : Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light. **Communion Antiphon:** The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.

MEMORIAL OF ST AMBROSE ~ WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory. **Communion Antiphon:** He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life. **Comm Antiphon:** We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies to conform with his glorified body.



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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