

# St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the 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.**

**2nd Sunday of Advent  
Year B**

**6th December, 2020**



**Parish Weekend Mass Times  
St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina (92 people)**

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm  
Sunday — 9.00 am  
Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head (35 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 12.00 noon**

**WEEKDAY MASS:  
At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY  
12 noon (92 people)  
Please register with Parish Office**

**RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Feasts**

**St Ambrose  
Monday**

**The Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday**

## A world weary of suffering

“Here is your God!” These words of the first reading, attributed to a prophet called the second (or Deutero)-Isaiah, are words of hope for a disheartened people. The Israelites, although freed from slavery under the Egyptians, now find themselves exiles in what is called the “Babylonian captivity.” The Babylonians had destroyed the temple in Jerusalem and exiled most of the Hebrews who were beginning to despair of ever returning to their homeland. The prophet is a scribe for Israel’s God communicating words of comfort and hope.

A popular idea at the time was to attribute hardship and misfortune as punishment for sin. While the prophet does not directly challenge a connection between sin and suffering, he presents the people with a far more profound message of the assurance of God’s victory over evil as well as the offer of divine mercy and forgiveness. Such a God is not only “coming with power” but also “like a shepherd feeding his flock, holding the lambs in his arms.” What is also clear in these verses is that God does not act alone nor impose the divine will without respect for human freedom. Rather, messengers will be sent, signs will be given, so that all people are invited to see that Israel’s God is not simply the God of the Hebrews, but the God of all the earth and every people. The most powerful of God’s messengers is John the Baptist, calling people to repent their sins and open their hearts to see in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

We may almost call 2020 our own ‘Year of Captivity’ in wake of the physical, mental, economic and spiritual challenges through such confronting experiences as bushfires and the coronavirus. There is always the temptation to despair forgetting that, despite human ineptitude, stupidity and sinfulness, creation is still God’s world and we are still God’s people. Our task is not to “give in” but to “act out” a new way of living focusing

on the infinite mercy of God, the dignity of every human person, and the sacredness of the earth.

If bushfires and the pandemic have anything to teach us, it is surely that our human plans are often confronted by new and unexpected life challenges. Pope Francis’ powerful encyclical *Laudato Si’* [On Care for Our Common Home] reiterates this un-

derstanding that “everything is interconnected.” We need to take very seriously human responsibility for global warming and environmental destruction—and to change our ways accordingly. And we also need to place our faith and trust in God.

Advent is a time of both prophecy and promise. The prophet—whether Deutero-Isaiah or John the Baptist—calls us to repent and change our ways. The promise—“Here is your God!”—calms our fears and answers our deepest hopes for a world wearied of suffering.

Gerard Hall SM  
© Redemptorists 2020



Liturg Help ©2020

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  
**AFTER HOURS MOBILE:** 0423 445 639

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:  
PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

**SCHOOLS:**

**AGED CARE:**

**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**

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Aileen Griffin (mother of Father Jim), Father John Fitz-Walter, Shane O'Brien (Sydney), Paul Brady, Lois Wunsch, Edna Elvos, David Puglisi,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Tonina Attard, Barry Crowley

**AND ALSO FOR:** *Glorie Kelly, Fay Kerslake, 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:** Greg Sutherland (*New Zealand*), Peter Podgorczyk, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans (*6 weeks old*), Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, 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, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Darryl Simpkins, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dymrna 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, 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*

### 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 92 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 register prior to attending any 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 crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules – three/four people to a pew (*families can sit together*).
  - 92 people maximum in Ballina Church and 35 people maximum at Lennox Head church at one time.
  - **Singing** within the body of our Churches is prohibited by NSW Health authorities and endorsed by our Bishop.
    - 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.



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

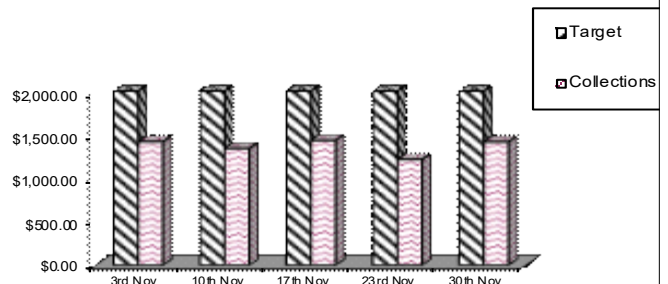
**MASKS:** It is recommended by State Government and endorsed by Bishop Greg to wear a mask while at Mass.

**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>	\$ 580.95
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 176.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,416.70
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



**DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM from 1st December,**

**2020**

**BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 -**

**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.**

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIME BALLINA**  
**2nd Rite Tuesday 15th Dec 6.00 - 7.00 pm**  
*and every Saturday at 9.00 am.*

**ANOINTING MASS: Friday 18th December at 12.00 noon—SFX Church Ballina**

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

**5.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**  
**6.00 pm— Xavier Catholic College, Magis Hall, 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head with Children's Liturgy**

**7.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**  
**8.00 pm — Holy Family Church, Lennox Head**

### 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.**

*Registrations are now being taken — phone the Parish Administration Office on 6681 1048 or email: admin@sfxballina.org.au for your preferred Mass.*



**'CONGRATULATIONS'**  
*Marie and Kevin Sullivan*  
*who will celebrate their*  
*Golden Wedding Anniversary*  
*this weekend.*

*Love and best wishes from all the parish.*



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Olivia Luigina-Mae Rizzo** daughter of Ross and Brooke.

## SHERATON HOUSE

Sheraton House was unable to comply with the *Guidelines for Homelessness Accommodation during COVID 19* issued by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. As such, Centacare Ballina closed Sheraton House on Wednesday 6th May, 2020 for the duration of the pandemic and while the Guidelines were in place. As part of our mission to serve the needs of the St Francis Xavier community a review has been undertaken of the purpose of Sheraton House as a men's crisis accommodation centre moving into the future. After much consideration, a decision has been made to transition Sheraton House from a night shelter for homeless men to low-cost housing, to ensure the important work and services we offer are able to be sustained now, and into the future.

## JOSEPHITE 2021 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. The price is still \$6.00 each and they do make a wonderful Christmas gift.



**Christian Meditation Group** will recommence Saturday 12th December at 9.30 am in the Anawim Room.

## 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**

## 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**



## ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Ballina Conference 'JESSE TREE'



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 Tree' in the Church of St Francis Xavier.

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 14th DECEMBER, 2020** 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**

## Wanted: Loving Married Couples Become a Sponsor couple

**SmartLoving** is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church.



Find out more at this free information session: Wednesday, 9th December - 8.00pm AEDT  
[www.smartloving.org/webinar](http://www.smartloving.org/webinar)

## CHRISTMAS DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Christmas Offering is made to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all those in receipt of an income have an obligation to support the works of the Church through the Planned Giving Program, it is a responsibility of all of us to support the clergy, keeping in mind that they need to eat too. We offer this support by giving to the first collection on Sundays and through Christmas and Easter Dues. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others can place an offering in an envelope and write "Christmas Dues" on the outside. By the way, the offering doesn't go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

Thank you for your support. **ENVELOPES CAN BE PLACED IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11;**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14;**

*A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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: Mk 1:1-8**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

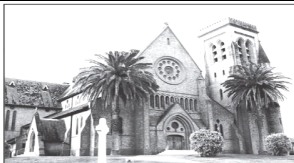


**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself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

**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



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.