

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.**

**2nd Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
(A)**

16th April, 2023

Alleluia

**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 MASSES
at St Francis Xavier Church**

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon**

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



**Feast Day
St Anselm,
Friday**



We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM: Our parish family warmly welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:

Hendrix Rae Butler son of Shannon and Amanda.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be held **Monday 24th April at 3.00 pm,**

in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina. Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome!**



**2023
MEN'S GATHERING
'STAY CONNECTED'
SATURDAY 29th APRIL
10.00 AM—1.00 PM
BISHOP GREG**

will address participants from 10.30 am St Francis Xavier School Hall. Entry by Crane Street. *Bring a friend.*

Register by Monday 24th April to assist with catering - contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

Men of our parish and beyond are very welcome to attend this event.



'We would like to take this time to THANK' everyone at Ballina and Lennox Head who were involved in the ceremonies for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, especially the Altar Attendants John and Phil, our Readers, our Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, our organist Wendy together with our parish choir, our Sacristans, ladies who arrange the flowers and clean the brass, Kathy our laptop operator, and those who warmly welcomed people into our church. To all who attended our Easter ceremonies, **thank you.** *Father Peter and Father Anselm.*



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY

**16th April 2023 ~ 2.00 pm
Holy Family Church,
Lennox Head.**

Everyone is welcome to our Divine Mercy Commemoration this afternoon. For further information please phone Marie 0409 887 677

Alstonville/Wardell Parish presents **Father Ray Sanchez** speaking on Grief and Loss. Friday 12th May at 6.30 pm and Saturday 13th May at 9.30 am in McCarthy Hall 44 Main Street, Alstonville. Light refreshments will follow both gatherings. Father Ray will explore the process of the grief we go through and how to make sense of it through our faith, as well as what can help us work our way through it to a place of greater peace. **Everyone is most welcome.**

PROJECT COMPASSION Don't forget to return your envelopes. These can be placed on the collection plate in both churches and money boxes can be brought into the Parish Office.

'CONGRATULATIONS' to Sr Mary Antoinette of the Divine Mercy and of the Infant Jesus OCD, on her Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession to the Carmelite Order. *Love and prayers from all in St Francis Xavier Parish, Ballina.*

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 (long service leave)

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Deacon: Rev Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: 3rd Easter Sunday ,Year A: 22nd/23rd April, 2023
Readings: Acts 2:14,22-33; Psalm 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

| | Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina | Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head | Sunday 9.00 am Ballina | Sunday 11.00 am Ballina |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Readers | <i>Kristie Coster Trish Bazar</i> | <i>Amanda Deeps Murray Deeps</i> | <i>Gary Reen Annette Reen</i> | <i>Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole</i> |
| EMOHC | Pauline Fingleton | | <i>Denise Miller Cathy Campbell</i> | Leanne Robbins |
| Offertory Procession | | | <i>Amy Derrick and Frank</i> | |

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Lucy Samaniego (*South America*), Betty Flakelar, Kathryn Nomchong,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Bob Townsend, John Condon, Cec Penhey, Robert Hosie Snr, Mick O'Brien, Bishop John Satterthwaite

AND ALSO FOR: *Scott Tuckwell & family, Kath and Kevin Hankinson, 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: Virginia Kohlbach and family, Anne Jackson, Michael Hains, Ronald Windall, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*) Tanya White, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Aoife Stephenson *1 yr (Brisbane)*, David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunty* 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.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 18th April | Tuesday 10.00 am | 'Cherry Coffee Club' |
| 24th April | Monday 3.00 pm | Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting |
| 25th April | Tuesday 9.00 am | Anzac Day Mass  |
| 29th April | Saturday 10.00 am | Men's Gathering with Bishop Greg |

From today's Gospel: Like Thomas, do you look for 'proofs' to bolster your faith? What kinds of proof do you look for? Why? What would your reaction be if something miraculous happened in your life? Would it bolster your faith? How long before you begin to doubt again? What people or occurrences help to boost your faith? Are they as vivid in your mind today as they were when they happened? What are some of the elements of Christianity that come to mind when you have doubts? Dose a sense of doubt indicate weak faith? Why or why not? Is part of your doubt tied up in how you feel about yourself? Are you harder on yourself than you are on other people? What evidence of the presence of Jesus in your life can you derive from the Mass? **ACTION:** *Take stock this week of your prayer life. Is it what it should be? Or is prayer something that you do when time or need allows? Be there for another person whose faith may be lagging.*

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 Presbyterian 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.

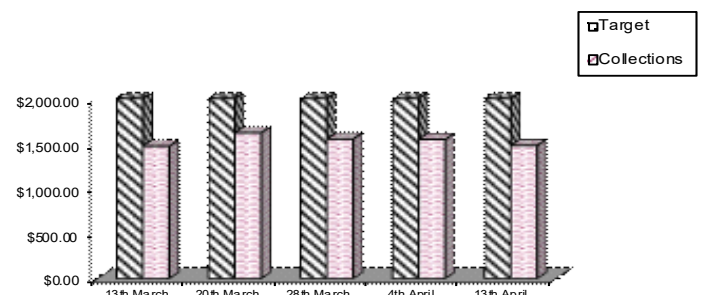
- **By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- **By making an EFTPOS donation — 1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name**
- **2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish 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 3.20% 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

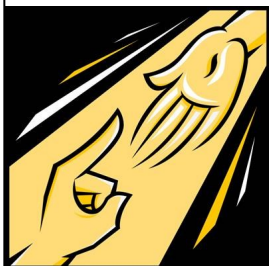
THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| First Collection | <i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i> | \$ 1,187.65 |
| Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i> | Loose Plate | \$ 902.65 |
| | Planned Giving Envelopes Collected | \$ 1,477.60 |
| Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target | | \$ 2,009.00 |



Introducing our deacon: Rev. Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley is a permanent deacon and has been appointed by Bishop Gregory to the Ballina – Lennox Parish. Anthony is married and has two children who are recently married. He grew up in Lismore and after high school moved to Sydney to study and later work. He and his wife now live here. His primary ministry as a deacon is work as a theologian and associate dean at a theological institute. He will have an assisting role in the parish and will use his gifts in a number of ways that may include some adult formation and assisting at Mass and with funerals, baptisms and weddings from time to time. The Church has always had deacons but for many centuries almost all of them were men on their way to priesthood. The Second Vatican Council restored the permanent ministry of deacon so that the faith of the Catholic Church in a threefold Holy Order would be more visible. You can read this in Anthony's book, *Deacons Today: New Wine, New Wineskins*. Anthony is looking forward to getting to know you. He is happy to be addressed by his baptism name but if you want to use a title he can be addressed as Deacon Anthony.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE



In the dramatic encounter between Jesus and the disciple Thomas after Jesus's resurrection, Jesus invites Thomas - who is stricken with doubt - to put his hand into Jesus' side. It provides a vivid example of how God draws close to us, despite our fears and doubts, when we struggle to find a way forward.

As a child, I used to watch my father develop photographs in a dark room illuminated only by a dim red light. As the photographic paper was dipped successively in different trays of chemicals, the latent photographic image emerged. At first, only a vague outline of the image would be visible. Increasingly, the image improved in clarity. The final product was always a sharp, focused and vivid black and white image. Our journey of faith is something like this, our understanding and insight slowly developing.

Thomas the disciple has often been portrayed in a negative light for voicing his doubts. Like Thomas, we desire God, yet are filled with doubt because we are unsure how to proceed. However, these moments of doubt, in both Thomas's and our experience, rather than being viewed as falling short of the mark, should be regarded as opportunities where we are invited to take a step forward in faith. We need to remember that in life, as in this Gospel account, Jesus takes the initiative by coming amongst us, blessing us with his peace and breathing upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is also worth noting that the opposite of doubt is not the elimination of all uncertainty but an invitation to faith. Faith holds a candle to the path forward: yet the path is not necessarily one that is easy or carefree. The path forward, even when taken in faith, can still be filled with pain and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, Jesus accompanies us in this journey of faith. He lovingly invites Thomas to see his hands, to put his hand in his side. He says to Thomas and to all of us, "Feel my wounds." This is no rebuke but an intimate, loving, bodily embrace of our flesh-and-blood humanity.

Jesus takes his place in our lives not just in the joyful certainties of our life but amidst those doubt-filled gaps. He faced those moments himself: in Gethsemane on the eve of his death and in those final moments on the cross. In his loving embrace of our humanity, he transforms those dark nights of the soul. "Reach out your hand and put it into my side," he says encouragingly.

As children of the Resurrection, our awe-filled response, "My Lord and my God", allows the flooding in of his remarkable grace and peace and redemption. It embeds his presence in our midst. Let us remember, as Thomas Merton observed, "There is no such thing as a prayer in which 'nothing is done' or 'nothing happens,' although there may well be a prayer in which nothing is perceived or felt or thought."

Sophie Clements

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TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

All enquiries: Please phn 6621 7288 or email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

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. To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1045

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: Mondays 11.00 am St Teresa Room, Parish Administration

Parish Youth Group: In recess for school holidays.

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

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church. **Welcome to our prayer gatherings.**

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

EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all 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 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1Peter 1:3-9;*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all

sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls. The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!**Gospel: John 20:19-31***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASSES ~~~ TUESDAY 18TH APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to God, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and so enter into his glory, alleluia.

WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of your name to my kin, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, and have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, alleluia.

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

FRIDAY 21ST APRIL ~ FEAST OF ST ANSELM

Entrance Antiphon: I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord, will be their God, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, alleluia.



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www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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