

# 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.

2nd Sunday of Easter  
(A)

19th April, 2020

Alleluia

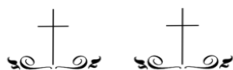
FROM FATHER PETER  
AND  
FATHER ANSELM

Parishioners please be  
assured of our prayers as we  
comply with the  
government's  
restrictions with social  
distancing.

Every day in our private  
Masses we pray that the  
parish community will be safe  
from the COVID-19 virus, and  
that our way of life and the  
freedom to attend our Parish  
Masses will resume in the near  
future.

'We are all in this together'.

God Bless and keep each of you  
Father Peter  
Father Anselm



Anzac Day  
Saturday



## Doubling the Easter message

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike the other disciples, Thomas is not about to believe in something as improbable as Jesus rising from the dead unless he has hard evidence. We might even call him Thomas the 'sceptic' who believes only in things he can see and touch.

In John's Gospel, Thomas is presented as someone who does the right thing even in the face of adversity.

This is shown when Jesus visits the ill and dying Lazarus. Thomas urges the disciples to accompany Jesus on this difficult mission — even if they might face death: "Let us go that we may die with him" (11:16).

Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. Peter, however, commits himself to follow Jesus to the point of death, but then denies him three times!

Nor is Thomas afraid to express his ignorance and ask the hard questions. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going, Thomas bluntly expresses his confusion: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5). Finally, from today's gospel, we are presented with both a "doubting Thomas" who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is full-hearted: "My Lord and my

God".

Like Thomas, we are people with doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Nor do we have the privilege of touching the wounds in the risen body of Jesus, as Thomas did. Yet, in a strange twist of events, Jesus says that you and I are even more blessed than Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".

Yet, our faith is not blind belief in things that others tell us. Easter faith is a genuine experience of the risen Lord who always walks with us on the journey of life. This is especially the case when we experience "crucifixion moments" in our own lives, or when our doubts threaten to overwhelm us. As

Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leading us to search for the 'hidden God' who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

Pope Francis says by living our faith in loving service of others "many doubts vanish because we feel the presence of God and the truth of the Gospel". In other words, Easter faith is less about a set of beliefs than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Gerard Hall SM  
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Liturgy Help © 2020

**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are from 20th March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 204

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

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:** Robert Hosie Snr, Sr Marie Jean Akers, pbvm,, Martin Boland,  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Mick O'Brien, Nancy Grant,  
**AND ALSO FOR:** James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** Sr Martha Casserley, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie 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 (2 yrs), 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, Kim del-Signore, *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)

### **Death Transformed**

*[Rise up] O sleeper, awake!*

*Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.*

*Rise up, work of my hands, for you were created in my image.*

*Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you.*

*Together . . . we cannot be separated! [1]*

I believe the Christian faith is saying that *the* pattern of transformation is always *death transformed, not death avoided*. The universal spiritual pattern is death *and* resurrection, or loss *and* renewal, if you prefer. That is always a disappointment to humans, because we want one without the other—transformation without cost or surrender.

We ordinarily learn to submit and surrender to this scary pattern only when reality demands it of us, as it is doing now. Christians are helped by the fact that Jesus literally submitted to it and came out more than okay. Jesus is our guide, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith,” as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it (12:2).

Each time we surrender, each time we trust the dying, we are led to a deeper level. We are grounded for a while, like an electric wire, so there is less resistance and more available energy to trust it the next time. Yet it is still invariably a leap of faith, a walk through some degree of darkness.

There is something essential that we only know by dying. We really don't know what life is until we know what death is. Divine Life is so big, so deep, and so indestructible, that it is able to include death.

In her March Newsletter from The Omega Center, entitled “Hope in a Time of Crisis,” Franciscan sister and scientist Ilia Delio wrote:

Christianity can help us realize that death and resurrection are part of the evolutionary path toward wholeness; letting go of isolated existence for the sake of deeper union. Something dies but something new is born—which is why the chaos of our times is, in a strange way, a sign of hope; something new is being born within. Out of chaos, a star is born. Breakdown can be break through if we recognize a new pattern of life struggling to emerge.

We may find Ilia's words challenging but I hope we also find them encouraging—reminding us to look for new signs of life and new ways of being, today and in the days to come.

*Richard Rohr Meditation*

*Centre for Action and Contemplation <Meditations@cac.org>*

### **“A Prayer Amid A Pandemic”**

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Amen.

*The Jesuit Review*



# Parish Notices



## SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Robert Hosie Snr** who has passed away.

A private funeral within the government guidelines has taken place.

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioners with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.

- 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 Presbyterian**  
BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 reference  
*your name*

- **2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish**  
BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218 Please ensure you use your Planned 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, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month.  
*Thank you*



## PROJECT COMPASSION

Don't forget to return your envelopes. They can be returned to Parish Admin during office hours  
Thank you



## 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**

## MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

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### CATH NEWS

[www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

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**Google Catholic Masses and click your choice**

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**AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV**

**Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ Mass 6.00 am**

## 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)

## REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

**Father Peter and Father Anselm are thinking and praying for all during this difficult time of social distancing and at times disconnectedness. The parish office is open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm or phone 6681 1048.**

## ANZAC DAY 'We Remember them'

In your boots I walk.

These boots that walk the footpaths of the base in Brisbane or Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin or Perth. Tramped the beach and climbed the rocky slopes of Gallipoli the mud of the Somme the desert sand of Palestine the rainforest of the Pacific the jungles of Vietnam the villages of Timor.

In these boots you fell and died.

In these boots you fought for life, for freedom, for peace.

In these boots you still fight, in the hills of Afghanistan over the skies of Iraq.

In these boots that sit under a desk in an office.

That carry me to lunch and carry me home to cradle my children at night.

In these boots you fought, you fell.

May you be cradled in loving arms, the arms of Christ, who fell and died for us all.

by Sue Page

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/>



Google image

## DIF PAYS 1.10% PER ANNUM AS FROM 14TH APRIL 2020

**BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker** 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 -  
Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099

## 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: Peter 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.'

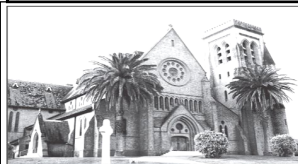
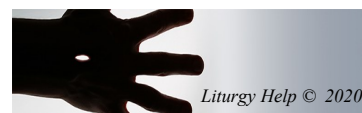
Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I 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.



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