

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 in Lent (A)

5th March, 2023

Fast



Give



Prepare



Pray



'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 Days

Sts Perpetua & Felicity

Monday

St John of God

Tuesday

St Frances of Rome

Thursday

Mountain top experience

In just a few weeks' time we will hear the shocking accounts of Jesus' arrest, his torture, his passion and his death on a cross. But today, early in our Lenten journey, we recall one of the moments in his life when his divine identity is revealed to his closest disciples.

There, up a high mountain, before Peter, James and John, Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. Moses and Elijah also appeared, conversing with Jesus.

What an amazing sight for those three disciples: Jesus in his dazzling glory. It is a moment of sheer ecstasy. No wonder they wanted to stay in that moment forever. Peter exclaims: "Lord, it is good that we are here." Wanting to stay there, he suggests building three tents, one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

But a voice from heaven speaks, as at Jesus' baptism at the start of his public ministry: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

It is a gentle but firm correction for Peter! There was to be no staying there; rather there is a mission to accomplish. Listen to him! Jesus, his identity as Son of God now so clearly revealed to them, is destined to suffer and die. How Peter struggled to listen and to hear that the Messiah would suffer.

The Church always recounts this story of the transfiguration on the second Sunday of Lent.

This year we hear Matthew's account. As for the disciples, the transfiguration reminds us of who Jesus really is. He is the Son of God, truly and fully divine. He is God with us. We are to remember this when he is tortured and crucified, all for our sake and for our salvation.

We too will have the occasional mountain-top experiences in our lives, those precious moments when we are our very best selves and life is blissful. However, just as surely, suffering and hardship will also come our

way, as it did for Jesus. But the message that resounds through the gospels, and especially in the Easter liturgies, is that God works in and through suffering. Suffering is no aberration or obstacle on our journey to the fullness of life and to the glory that is promised to us. So it was for Jesus. His resurrection is not just a moment of triumph "after" his suffering and quite separate from it, but a mystery born in



and of his suffering. So too for us.

So let us live each day in faith, hope and love, with courage and trust that God does not desert us, but is truly and steadfastly with us, through hard times and good. As The Letter to Timothy reminds us today: "Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God."

Anne Hunt

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We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

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 Sunday of Lent Year A: 11th/12th March, 2023
Readings: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Bryan Marriott Yvonne Head	Gemma Duffy Richard Goss	Helen Cooney Leanne Robbins
EMHC	Tamara Gubby	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Emma McFadden Wally Carter	Damien Kennedy	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Deirdre Hourigan (Sydney), Patricia Evans, Kevin Daley, Richard Patterson,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Michael Kearney

AND ALSO FOR: 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: Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (Tasmania) Tanya White, Kathryn Nomchong, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (infant Brisbane), Carmel Hackett, 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. (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

5th March	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish 'Cuppa'
9th March	Thursday 10.00 to 11.00 am	'Presence' The Mystery of the Eucharist
10th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
30th March	5.30 pm Thursday	Confirmation
1st April Saturday	Parish Preparation for Holy Week 9.00 am	*Mass/Lauds *Reconciliation *Reflection

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Thursday 30th March ~ 5.30 pm
St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 23rd May

5.00 pm St Francis Xavier Church

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 20th August 9.00 am
St Francis Xavier Church

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.

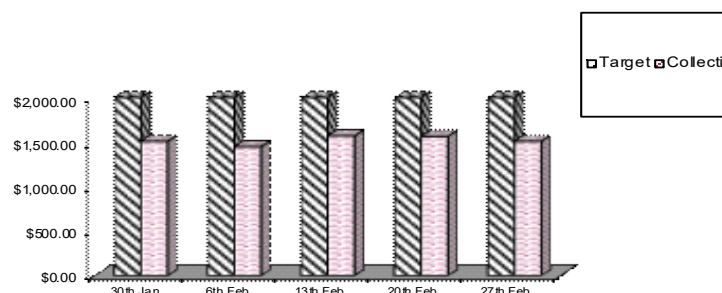
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterian BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier 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 ~ AS OF 1ST MARCH 2023

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	\$ 1,027.20
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 603.40
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,507.20
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Parish Notices

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



BAPTISM: Our parish family **warmly welcomes** into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Addison Elise Priestland** daughter of Clint and Samantha; and **Sadie Rita Bugden** daughter of Bobby and Brooke.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church

PARISH 'CUPPA'

in the grounds of **St Francis Xavier Church**
This Sunday 5th March, 2023
following the 9.00 am Mass.
Everyone is very welcome.



'PRESENCE' The Mystery of the Eucharist

Join a Pilgrimage to Holy Thursday.
Beginning this week 2nd March at the Parish Admin Centre from 10.00 to 11.00 am or 5.30 to 6.30 pm.
Phn 6681 1048 if you would like to join this pilgrimage.
'Inspiring and Insightful'



Catholic Mission is standing in solidarity with the Church to provide pastoral and practical support to the people of Turkey and Syria. Your generous donation can make a real difference. catholicmission.org.au/earthquake-appeal

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BALLINA

Invites you to
'ORGAN MUSIC REFLECTIONS'
Tuesday 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm
7th March, 14th March 21st March and 28th March.
All Welcome.
music@anglicanballina.com.au



PROJECT COMPASSION 2023 Second Sunday of Lent 4th and 5th March

Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Invitation to 'Journey with us'
ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO....

- Has expressed an interest in becoming a Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptised?
- Was baptised Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist on 11th June, 2023.

You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For further information and enrolment please contact Parish Administration Office by phoning 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

'THANK YOU' To all those who assisted in making this year's World Day of Prayer such a wonderful morning of prayer and friendship. The organising committee, our hospitality group, parish music ministry and all those who attended.

Father Peter and Father Anselm



'HAPPY BIRTHDAY'
NAN SWAN
CELEBRATING HER
100th BIRTHDAY
TODAY 5TH MARCH 2023
WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS
FROM ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
FAITH COMMUNITY
'Thank you' Nan for your participation in our parish over many years.



APPLICATIONS FOR CLEANER



ST ANNE'S LONG CAY CARE CENTRE is seeking a Contract Cleaner to commence Monday **22nd May 2023**, cleaning the Children's Centre at the end of each day Monday to Friday. Please contact Centre Director on 66875961 for further details.

LENNOX HEAD COMMITTEE

The last dinner for parishioners before the recess of the 5:00 p.m Vigil Mass will be on **'A little gem by the sea'** Saturday 25th March. Two tables are booked. Come and relax.

The next meeting will be on **Friday 24th March** in the Sacred Heart Room at 9:30 a.m. Father Anselm will be joining us. You are welcome to come and provide input at the meeting.

Bishop Greg's next Lenten talk will be held on Thursday 16th March at 6.00 pm in St Carthage's Cathedral.

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
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday
Sisterhood: Monday 11.00 am St Teresa Room Parish Admin.
Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX

Church
Parish Youth Group: 7.00 pm Saturday evening, Upper Room Parish Admin Centre
Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029
Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4;
A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'
So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Timothy 1:8-10;

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour

Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER

TUESDAY 7th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death, lest my enemy say: I have overcome him.

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all your wonders. I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Forsake me not, O Lord! My God, be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Communion Antiphon: The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

THURSDAY 9th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Test me, O God, and know my thoughts. See that my path is not wicked, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

FRIDAY 10th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: In you, O Lord, I put my trust, let me never be put to shame; release me from the snare they have hidden for me, for you indeed are my refuge.

Communion Antiphon: God loved us, and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.



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www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.