

# 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  
Ordinary Time (A)

15th January, 2023

'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**

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**Feast Days**

**St Anthony  
Tuesday**

**St Agnes  
Saturday**

## A term of great honour

Some people today may be puzzled by John the Baptist referring to Jesus in today's gospel as the "lamb of God", since for most of us the lambs we see in the paddocks are cute, but weak and vulnerable to predators. You don't hear of nations, or even sporting teams, adopting 'lambs' as their emblem. Why should John identify "the Chosen One of God" as the "lamb of God"?

The people for whom John was writing would have heard the "lamb of God" very differently to us. For those familiar with the Old Testament, the term "lamb of God" had extremely powerful resonances, especially in the suffering servant passages in Isaiah, as well as in the Exodus from Egypt.

Recall how Isaiah gives an astonishing account of the suffering servant who is beaten, arrested and put to death: "Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word." Yet by his endurance we are saved and forgiven by God (53:7).

Again at the Exodus from Egypt, we read of God sending a destroying angel to kill all the first born in the land, of people and animals, to force Pharaoh to release the Israelites from their bondage. Moses instructs the Israelites to take the blood of a lamb or kid and put it on the doorpost overnight to protect them from the angel of death (Ex. 12). This Passover became a defining feast for the Jewish people ever after, and it resonates in our Christian Eucharist as well.

So for us the "lamb of God" is indeed a term

of great honour, not one of weakness but of incredible endurance and commitment by God in Jesus to our wellbeing and salvation. The symbol of the lamb is not one of threat or violence, but of innocence and solidarity with those in suffering.

Curiously in John's gospel, there is no mention of him baptising Jesus. John even says he did not know Jesus, but recognised him from the sign of the Spirit descending on him. John speaks as a prophet witnessing to the true identity of Jesus as the Chosen One who takes away "the sin of the world", the primordial disorder in all creation and in us.

John witnesses the Holy Spirit coming down on Jesus, but the Spirit is not for Jesus alone. Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit, and so the Spirit will be alive in all the followers of Jesus.

John is intent on showing how the same Holy Spirit in Jesus is the very same Spirit animating the small and seemingly insignifi-

cant Christian communities of his day. He is urging the followers of Jesus to allow God's Spirit to nudge them to be good news, with the 'lamb of God' as their emblem, capturing God's intense personal commitment to our wellbeing, and calling us to a similar commitment to others.



Liturgy Heap ©

Bruce Duncan CSsR  
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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:**

**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**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

**SCHOOLS:**

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

**AGED CARE:**

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

**ROSTER: 3rd Sunday Year A: 21st/22nd January, 2023**  
**Readings: Isaiah 8:23—9:3; Psalm 26; 1 Cor 1:10-13; Matt 4:12-23**

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
<b>Readers</b>	Bryan Marriott Trish Bazar	Gary Reen Annette Reen	Maurice Gahan Leanne Robbins
<b>EMHC</b>	Pauline Fingleton	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Helen Cooney
	<b>Lennox Head</b> 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	<b>Lennox Head</b> Sunday 7.30 am	 
<b>Readers</b>	Wally Carter	Marie Sullivan	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Cardinal Georg Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Jack Gabler (Brisbane), Betty Chandler,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** John Moreland, Marie Rogers

**AND ALSO FOR:** Jack & Marie Flood, Beatrice Flood, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerlake, 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:** Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (infant Brisbane), 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)

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023**

<b>January 24th</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry Coffee Club' Morning Tea</b>
<b>11th February 2023</b>	<b>Saturday Time tba All Welcome!!</b>	<b>'Coming Closer to Jesus through Prayer'</b>
<b>5th February</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Cuppa</b>

**Quote:** 'Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, his name will continue to resound throughout the world'.

Pope Benedict XVI [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)



**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ~ not in recess**

You are invited to join in this unique form of prayer. **9.30 am Saturdays** in the Anawim Room Parish Administration Centre, entry via Swift Street.

*Christian meditation is a very simple and ancient tradition of prayer. You will be warmly welcomed into this group.*

**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. 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.

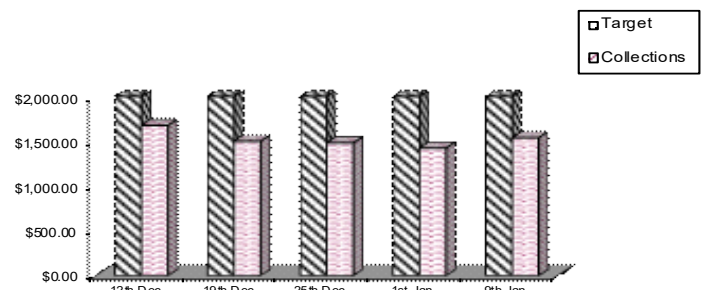
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier 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 2.60% PER ANNUM AS OF 1ST JANUARY, 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](http://www.dif.org.au)

**THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 1,015.25
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 604.15
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,539.00
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 welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:  
**Flynn Alexander Mallen** son of James and Danielle.



**CATECHISTS MATTER**  
**Volunteers NEEDED for 2023**  
An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.



**'CHERRY COFFEE CLUB'**  
**Ladies** of our parish you are invited to gather for morning tea. Our first for 2023.  
**10.00 am Tuesday**  
**24th January 2023**  
**Cherry Street Bowling Club.**  
**No booking required. All welcome**

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools?  
Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.  
**Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Sunday 12th February 2023**  
**You are invited to St Joseph's Church**  
**Coraki Centenary**

Join us for Mass at 9.15 am in St Joseph's Church Coraki followed by morning tea, at the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (next door). Celebrating the 100 year Journey.



**DIOCESE OF LISMORE**

**POSITION AVAILABLE**  
**ADMINISTRATION TRAINEE**

Do you know anyone who would like to work as an Administration Trainee? The Chancery in Lismore and Invercauld House in Goonellabah would like to support a trainee in their pursuit of a Cert III in Business Administration. At the Chancery, you will receive exposure to many areas of administration, supporting all other administrative positions within the organisation. At Invercauld House you would be able to gain experience working in administration in a hospitality venue.  
If you or anyone you know is passionate about obtaining administrative experience as a trainee in a caring and supportive environment or you would like additional information, please ring Marijo Bradley on 6621-9444.

**2023 Josephite Calendars are still available @ \$10 ea**

**Quote:** Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life... all of our life.' *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

## 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



St Carthage's  
Community Care

## Position Vacant Garden & Home Maintenance

Applications are sought for a suitably experienced, versatile handyperson to undertake both indoor and outdoor home/business maintenance work. Additional skills in horticulture, landscaping or building trades would be advantageous. The position is initially offered as casual with a view to permanent employment for the right applicant. Tools, equipment, vehicle and uniform supplied. Impeccable attention to detail will be sought from the successful applicant. An understanding of the Catholic faith is desirable for this trusted position.  
Email your application to admin@stcarthages.org.au

## COMING CLOSER TO JESUS Saturday 11th February ~ *time tba* St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

A prayer reflection experiencing World Community for Christian Meditation and Scripture Journaling of MenALIVE

*'.. Rise up! Flee your preoccupations for a little while. Hide yourself for a time from your turbulent thoughts. Cast aside, now, your heavy responsibilities and put off your burdensome business. Make a little space free for God; and rest for a little time in Him. Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut all thoughts.'* St Anselm

## 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.  
**If using electronic transfer please direct your donation to St Francis Xavier Parish ~ Ref 'Youth'**  
**~ BSB 082 522 ~ A/c 50960 3218 Thank you.**

**Christian Mediation ~ Saturday 9.30 am ~ Anawim Room, Admin Centre**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~ Friday 11.00 am—11.50 am**

**Parish Youth Group** is in recess

**Marian Cenacle** is in recess

**Ballina CCR** is in recess until Monday 30th January, 2023

**Sisterhood** is in recess

**Prayer of the Church & Rosary ~ 9.00 am Saturday mornings ~ St Francis Xavier Church**

**First Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: 1Cor 1:1-3;**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 1:29-34**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER**

**FEAST OF ST ANTHONY ABBOT ~ TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

**Communion Antiphon:** If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me, says the Lord.

**WEDNESDAY 18TH ~ THURSDAY 19TH ~ FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**Communion Antiphon:** You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



**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.