



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 Advent (A)

7th December, 2025



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 MASS THIS WEEK
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon Ballina**

**ADORATION FRIDAY
11.00 am to 11.45 am**



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

+++++

Feast Day

**The Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday**

**MASS 12.00 NOON MONDAY
Parish Volunteers
'thank you' Mass**

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

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



'CONGRATULATIONS'

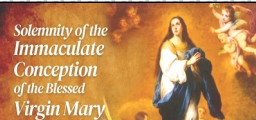
**DONNA DELLAR, ZACHARY HEARD, SIMONE MACDONALD,
NORM LANNOY, SANDI LINDSAY, MICHAEL PITTON,
SANDRA TAYLOR & MARK WALLACE**

*Received into the fullness of Communion with the
Catholic faith this Sunday.*

God continually calls new members to His family, the Church.
Our parish community is blessed today with the presence of Donna,
Zachary, Simone, Norm, Sandi, Michael, Sandra and Mark who are now full
members of the Catholic Church.

Love and prayers from all the parish.

*Everyone is invited to stay and meet the new members of
our faith community as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day
with a cuppa in the grounds of the Church.*



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Our parish will have Mass at 12.00 noon
THIS Monday 8th December.

*At this Mass we will acknowledge and give thanks for our wonderful
Parish Volunteers for 2025. A cuppa will be enjoyed after the Mass.*

**PARISH ANOINTING MASS ~ Friday 19th December
12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

Thursday Christmas Day

7.30 am Mass Holy Family Church - Lennox Head

9.00 am & 11.00 am Mass St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

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

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associates: email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

www.sfxballina.org.au

**PARISH LIBRARY:
SCHOOLS:**

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

St Francis Xavier Primary: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

Holy Family Primary: Principal: Mr Murray Deeps - 02 6687 5311 - 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Lee MacMaster - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive,
Skennars Head

AGED CARE:

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

Third Sunday of Advent Year A: 13th/14th December 2025
Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	John Jarzynski Trish Bazar	Michael Piccoli Mark McDonald	Gary Reen Annette Reen	Leanne Robbins Maxine Cole
EMOHC	Kristie Coster Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Maddy Pride	Oanh Hoang Letran Cathy Campbell	Tony Hunter
Offertory Procession			Cathy Andrews Diana Evans	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
Adelaide King, Sgariboldi Luigi (Italy Gino Bordin, Mary Evans, Joan Smith Michael Honeywell,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Peter Newport, Margaret Pyne
AND ALSO FOR: *Vincenza Borroni, Jack & Marie Flood, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.*
AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Luke Willett, Gloria Bordin, Veronica Bennett (*Gold Coast*), Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (*Sydney*), Paddy Mulgrew (*Northern Ireland*), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (*Brisbane*), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Daphne Sweeney, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David LeFevre Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlback & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Aunt Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, 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).

8th December

Monday 10.30 am

Marian Cenacle Anawim Room

9th December

Tuesday 10.00 am

'Cherry' Coffee

10th December

Wednesday 8.00 am

menAlive Lennox Head

13th December

Saturday 9.00 am

Parish Advent Reflection Morning

19th December

Friday 12.00 noon

Anointing Mass

URGENT

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST
LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED
FOR 5.30 PM VIGIL MASS
9.00 AM SUNDAY MASS
11.00 AM SUNDAY MASS
It is with great hope that we look forward to a heartening response to this call for assistance.
Please contact the Parish Office 02 6681 1048.
Thank you

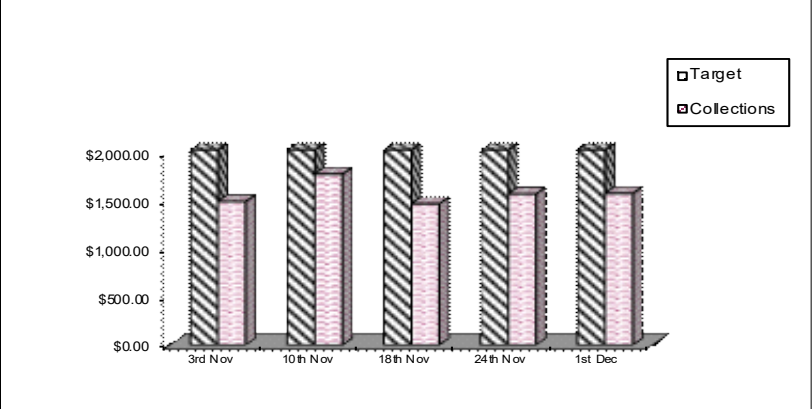
COLUMBAN 2026 CALENDARS are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 each
MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 for a packet of 10.

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 Erick**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS 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 use your Planned Giving number as reference.**

DIF PAYS 3.40% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, **L J Hooker**
87-89 River St Ballina 026686 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	\$ 1,430.55
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 450.45
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,554.20
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Preparing the way

"When we hear the words, 'a voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord ...', what do we hear? A young man wondered whether he was being called to be a priest. But when have we heard a call to prepare a way for the Lord?

In our wilderness have we heard a voice calling us to a change of heart? A woman heard such a voice when she spoke of her grief in a small group. A friend's response enabled her 'to find release from the doubts and fears and self-concern that had imprisoned me.' That's the hope and the joy offered to us in Advent, in the person of the one who is to come.

John the Baptist prepares a way for him, and he reveals how we might do this by calling us to repent, to a change of heart, so the kingdom of heaven might be made real in our lives. When the people were baptised by him, they 'confessed their sins', naming them so they might be forgiven, and their relationship with God and one another, might be restored. These are the fruits of repentance. We can't simply presume like the religious leaders do in the gospel that all is well because we're in good standing with God, as John calls them out for their complacency.

Clearly, he's an agent of change, and as the young man and the grieving woman instinctively understood, it's decision time, because John points to the coming one's role as judge at the end of time. He will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire – a baptism of fire – which a woman experienced a few years ago when a bushfire destroyed her home. She lost everything and slowly came to realise it was an opportunity to do things differently this time, with God at the centre of her life.

She came to understand this judgement is not something to be afraid of, for when it comes it will be the moment when all is revealed, the moment of our liberation, when we will be 'set free to love'. The only question is, do we long for this transformation or cling to what we've known? It's not quite what John had in mind, but it is the hope and joy of Advent; that the Lord's judgment will see the birth of a community of hope, where we might experience the joy of being with one another, both now and forever.

This community is at the heart of the first and second readings. Isaiah speaks of a new life for God's people on returning from exile – renewed relationship with one another and all creation. While Paul speaks of hope in the scriptures and following the example of Christ and our forebears in faith, the building up of a community where we might all give glory to God. In this way we 'prepare a way for the Lord': it's what we're called to do.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

St Francis Xavier Conference
'JESSE TREE'/Christmas Appeal

As we commence Advent, you will notice the 'Jesse Trees' in our churches. This year we join the 'Jesse Tree' and Christmas Appeal together as one. Your donations over the next 4 weeks will enable the Conference to distribute Food Cards to people in need this Christmas, allowing them to purchase food of their choice.

How to Help:

1. Take an envelope from the Jesse Tree in the Church. Donation options are on and inside the envelopes.
2. Complete your donation (cash or other) and return the envelope on a collection plate at a Mass over the next 3 weeks; or return the envelope to a Vinnies Shop, at 7 Martin Street, Ballina or Shop 5, 64 Ballina Street, Lennox Head during business hours: Weekdays: 9 am – 4 pm Saturdays: 9 am – 12 noon.

It would be appreciated if the envelopes can be returned by **Sunday 21st December 2025**. Thank you for your kind generosity in sharing God's gifts and helping to make Christmas a little brighter for families and individuals doing it a little tougher this Christmas.

"Oh! how happy the man of means who uses his wealth and his life for the greater glory of God, from whom he has received them!" ~ Vincent de Paul

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00 ea



FUNERAL NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **MARY EVANS** who has sadly passed away.

A Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 15th December at 1.00 pm in St Francis Xavier Church.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
Catholic Parish Ballina
PRESENTS

ADVENT MORNING

of Reflection

9AM SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH BALLINA

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this Parish event in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Plus Morning Tea

ADORATION

BENEDICTION

REFLECTIONS

RECONCILIATION

SCRIPTURE
ROSARY

2025 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER (roster board at the back of church)

5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Readers

Julie McKinnon & Mick Vella

EMOHC

..... & ~ **Phil Chapman**

7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Readers

Trish Bazar &

EMOHC

.....

9.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

Tony Hunter &

EMOHC

Denise Miller & Cathy Campbell

11.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

John Jarzynski &

EMOHC

.....



Diocesan
Investment
Fund

Interest Rate — 3.40% For further information and our current rate, Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,

for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God.

And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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: Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS**MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2025 ~ FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER, 2025 ~

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.

Communion Antiphon: The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.

WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER, 2025

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of his servants

THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER, 2025

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER 2025

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies,