

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 in
Ordinary Time (A)**

18th January 2026

**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

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

5.00 PM Ballina

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

12.00 noon Ballina

ADORATION FRIDAY
11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION

9.00 am Saturday

St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Days

St Agnes
Wednesday

St Francis de Sales
Saturday

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 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 Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: Brendon Clarke 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

www.sfxballina.org.au

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 Deep - 02 6687 5311- 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Michael Campbell - 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

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina
Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 24th/25th January 2026
Readings: Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 26; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Matthew 4:12-23

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Bryan Marriott John Jarzynski	Michael Piccoli Damien Kennedy	Tony Hunter Margaret Tay	Maxine Cole Bernadette McQuillan
EMOHC	Jeanette Wilkins Phil Chapman	Murray Deep	Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
Offertory Procession			

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rasan Ilamurugan (*father of Naz Ilamurugan*)

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Fr Tony Casey, Maurie Walsh, Mary Deep, Stan Parry, Jack Patch, Camille Martin, Corlie Moreland, Joan Charteris, Serena Sieiuzi, Lorenzo Vassalo, Maria Reato,

AND ALSO FOR: 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: Andrea Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Caceres, Daniel Freeman, 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, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Feve Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Jocelyn O'Brien, unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2026

19th January	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
20th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
26th January	Monday	Australia Day Public Holiday
28th January	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
1st February	Sunday 9.45 am & 11.00 am	Parish Cuppa Grounds of the Church
2nd February	Monday 5.30 pm	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
3rd February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus Lennox Head
5th February	Thursday 10.00 am	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
18th February	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday

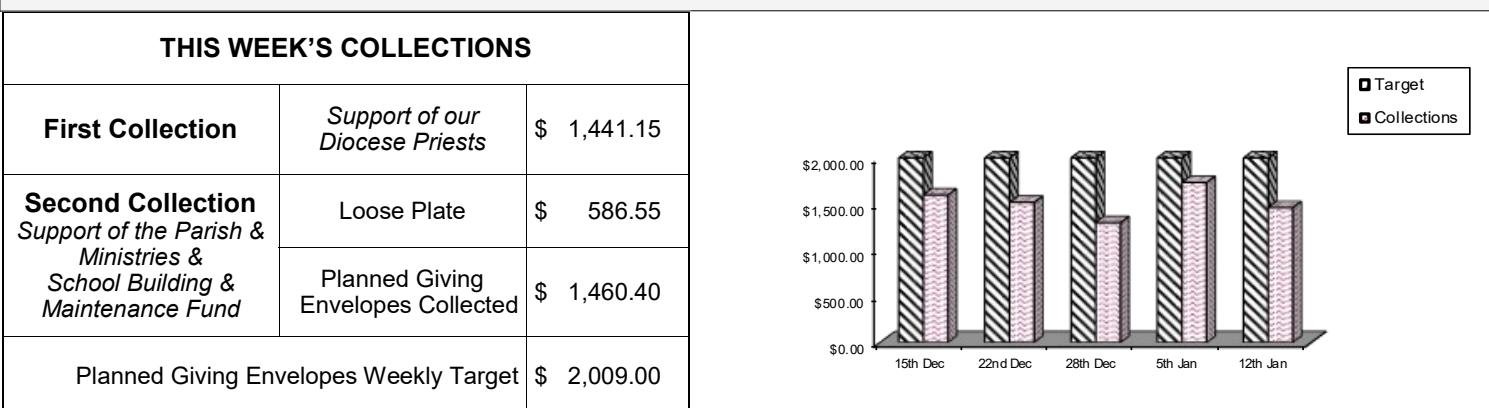
Parishioners please note: RE: NAMES IN THE SERIOUSLY ILL SECTION OF OUR PARISH BULLETIN. Many names have been on this list now for a very long time. Six weeks is the maximum time if notification has not been received. To assist with the preparation of the weekly bulletin please advise the Parish Office of your loved ones progress. If notification has not been received names will be omitted. *Thank you.*

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 Presbytery 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 SEPARATELY 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 Presbytery 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



Storytelling at its best

The best stories often have subtle structural elements hidden from direct view. George Lucas, for example, built the six Star Wars films he produced according to an elaborate ring structure where both scenes and dialogue from the first three films are inverted and mirrored in the second half.

J K Rowling constructed the Harry Potter series according to the spiritual “logic” of alchemy and with overarching mirrored parallels, a bit like Lucas. This deep structuration is an incredibly ancient and widespread way of storytelling. Holy Scripture is brimming full of configurations of similar kinds, both small and large.

John’s Gospel is no exception. I’ll draw attention to one example. The second half of Chapter One is composed of four “scenes”: the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus to the priests, Levites, and Pharisees from Jerusalem; the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus’ baptism (this week’s gospel!); Andrew’s testimony to his brother Peter; and Philip’s testimony to Nathaniel. The deep structural element I want to point out is the way the gospel relates these scenes to the next one, which is the wine miracle at the Wedding in Cana, the first “sign” that marks the beginning of Jesus’ ministry at the start of Chapter Two. (Six “signs” follow through the middle of the book, for a total of *seven*.)

Now, the second, third, and fourth of these testimonial scenes begin with the same phrase: “The next day...” The Cana story immediately following the fourth scene begins: “On the third day...” Four plus three is...*seven*.

The structural “key” to these “days” of Chapter One is the seven-day creation story. It is also the basis for the seven “signs,” which layer the Exodus onto that Creation theme. (Moses’ “signs” are the plagues that undo the creation, culminating in the death of Egypt’s firstborn sons, whereas Jesus’ signs—from the wedding wine to the resurrection of Lazarus—are acts of renewing the creation, bringing the world to its glorious purpose, achieved through the sacrifice of God’s own Son.)

This also sheds light on this week’s gospel, the second day of the initial seven, and John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus’ baptism. Here John mentions a Lamb, a Dove, and a Son. Jesus is both the Lamb—like the Passover lamb during the Exodus that “redeemed” the firstborn sons of Israel—and he is the Son, already sung about in the gospel’s opening as the one who makes us children of God.

In the middle of John’s testimony, between these two images (Lamb and Son), is the Dove, who is the Spirit, descending on Jesus in the waters of baptism. John testifies that Jesus’ baptism is the restart of the creation’s beginning when the Spirit hovered over the waters in Genesis. Our baptism into Jesus immerses us into this entire new creation.

W Chris Hackett © Majellan Media 2026

**Our first for 2026 ‘PARISH ‘CUPPA’ in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church,
Sunday 1st February, following the 9.00 am Mass and 11.00 am Mass.
Everyone is very welcome.**



CATECHISTS Volunteers NEEDED for 2026 ~ 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.



VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would like to be involved in our weekend Masses, assisting with the Offerary procession, Mass laptop operator for 11.00 am Sunday Mass, or being a ‘welcomer’ or handing out the parish bulletin, please advise the Parish Office. Perhaps you might like to help when we have our ‘Parish Morning teas’ once a month or be a part of the music ministry. Your assistance in any of these activities will be greatly appreciated. Contact 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au **Thank you.**

REFLECTION : Ours is an historical religion. It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination. He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place. He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of history.

Like Paul, we too have been called to be apostles. We received this call when we were baptised. The beginning of the year, with its custom of making new resolutions, is a wonderful time to remember to what we have committed ourselves. At times it seems that our own apostleship is no less daunting than was Paul’s. However, it is no less immediate either. Whether the period of history is the first half of the first century, as was the time of Jesus, or the second half, as was the time of Paul, or the twenty-first century, as is our time, salvation unfolds within the events of time. Furthermore, the followers of Jesus always return to the events of his life in order to discover the meaning of the events in their lives. These past events are reinterpreted in the ongoing present. Discipleship is never otherworldly. © Dianne Bergant CSA Liturgy Help

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

**Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus will resume
Tuesday 3rd February 10.00 am Holy Family Church
Lennox Head**

Just a thought as the holidays end: “The beginning is the most important part of the work.” — Plato

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.

Taizé: In recess.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday 11.00 am
Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church Ballina

CCR: In recess.

Marian Cenacle: Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.

Parish Youth Group: In recess

Devotion to the Holy Face: In recess until 3rd Feb

menAlive: Every second Wednesday 8.00 am Lennox head

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.

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

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 have 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: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthian

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 St 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 DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2026 ~ MASS AT 5.00 PM

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.

WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST AGNES MASS AT 5.00 PM

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

THURSDAY 22nd & FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY 2026 ~MASS AT 12.00 NOON

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- How do you witness to the Chosen One of God?
- Twice John says that he did not know Jesus himself, but that Jesus was revealed to him by God. What was it that first revealed Jesus to you?
- What sin of the world is in need of redemption today?
- Have you ever been an eye witness to something significant, either in your family or in the wider community? Share stories of what you have seen? How did you bear witness to this event? What effect did it have on you?
- Like John, give witness to Christ this week. Share something of your search for faith with others.
- The title of 'Lamb of God' is used of Jesus during the liturgy in the Communion rite. Learn this prayer by heart and say it often, contemplating its meaning:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office: Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please contact the Safeguarding Office 02 6621 9444 or email safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au. Procedures are in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or vulnerable people at risk.