

# 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 of Easter  
(C)**

**24th April, 2022**

*Alleluia*

**'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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**Anzac Day ~ 25th April**

**Monday ~ Mass 9.00 AM**

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**Feast Days**

**St Mark**

*Tuesday*

**St Peter Chanel**

*Thursday*

**St Catherine of Siena**

*Friday*

## Looking for the hard truth

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike 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. Yet, our 'doubting Thomas' has more to teach us than is commonly realised.

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 decides to visit 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" (Jn 11:16). Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. This is in contrast to Peter who 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 and

immediate: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28).

We, like Thomas, are people caught up with deeply human doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Yet, even for Thomas this is still not enough to believe without evidence that Jesus was now risen.

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" (Jn 20:29).

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 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 that 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 things to believe in, than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Gerard Hall SM

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

**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

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Bianca McInnes **Email:** bianca@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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Grant McCoy (*son of John & Pam*), Peter Meehan, Rose Mulgrew (*Ireland*),

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Barry Schneider

**AND ALSO FOR:** Robert (Bob) Townsend, Kath & Kevin Hankinson, 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:** Leila Aitken (Sydney), Estelle Anderson, Tony Smith, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Mardi Seabrook, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (*Sydney*), Noro Ruben Mazzorchio, Dorothy Preddey (*Sydney*), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (*Caloundra*), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, John Heaton, Dymphna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Pauline McLachlan, Darcy Martin, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, *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 if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

### THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest.

**CONFIRMATION:** 9th June, 2022

**RECONCILIATION:** TBA

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

**ANointing OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

**FUNREALS:** In either church. Requiem Mass or Funeral Prayers. Church booking arrangements with Funeral Director of choice, Liturgy arrangements with our priests.

**HOSPITAL:** If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

#### PLACES OF WORSHIP ~ KEEPING US SAFE.

- Hand sanitiser is provided at entrances to our Churches
- Masks are not mandatory, but encouraged in our churches
- Receiving of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing is allowed
- Social distancing not mandatory, but encouraged
- Density limits are not mandatory
- If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.

#### THE DIOCESE OF LISMORE 2022 FLOOD APPEAL

**The Most Reverend Gregory Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore offers his message of comfort, support and hope to the people of Northern NSW.**

The Diocese of Lismore has launched its 2022 Flood Appeal. To donate in Australia, please transfer funds to the account: BSB: **037-889** Account No: **1061 5829**

Account Name: **DOL Flood Appeal**

To donate from other countries please use this [PayPal link](#). This link can also be used within Australia.

Unfortunately this appeal is not tax deductible. If you are having trouble donating, please email: [appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au).



**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

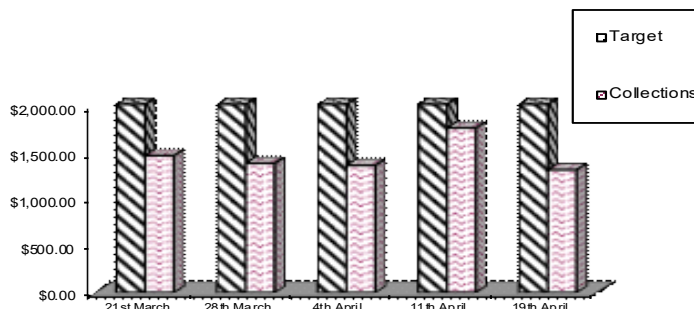
**Father Peter and Father Anselm**

#### DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM

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

#### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 750.10
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 392.60
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,304.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



#### SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided. Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

# Parish Notices

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



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY 24th April 2022 ~ 2.00 pm to 3.15 pm Holy Family Church, Lennox Head.

Everyone welcome to our Divine Mercy Commemoration this afternoon. For further information please phone Marie 0409 887 677



## SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Grant McCoy** who has passed away. Grant's Funeral Service will be held Monday 2nd May, at 11.00 am, in St Francis Xavier Church.



**'We would like to take this time to THANK'** everyone at Ballina and Lennox Head who were involved in the ceremonies for Holy Week and Easter, especially the Altar Attendants John, Max, Phil and Sophie, Readers, our Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,

our organist Wendy together with our parish choir, Sacristan Monica and our cleaner Todd for keeping our Churches Covid safe.

To all who attended our Easter ceremonies **thank you**. We had the privilege of Bishop Greg's Holy Thursday Mass in our parish.  
*Father Peter and Father Anselm.*

## PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022

The Parish Administration Office will be closed for the Anzac Day public holiday.

It will reopen on Tuesday 26th April at 8.30 am.

If you are in need of a priest please phone 0423 445 639

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Don't forget to return your envelopes. These can be placed in the collection boxes in both churches and money boxes can be left at the Parish Office.



## 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



## ANZAC DAY THIS MONDAY

25TH APRIL, 2022

**MASS ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
AT 9.00 AM 'We will remember them'.**



## A Tribute to Anzac Day by Ken Bunker

With their hair a little whiter, their step not quite so sure, still they march on proudly as they did the year before. Theirs were the hands that saved us, their courage showed the way. Their lives they laid down for us, that we may live today. From Gallipoli's rugged hillsides, to the sands of Alamein, on rolling seas and in the skies, those memories will remain. Of airmen and the sailors, of Lone Pine and Suvla Bay, the boys of the Dardenelles are remembered on this day. They fought their way through jungles, their blood soaked desert sands. They still remember comrades who rest in foreign lands.

They remember the siege of old Tobruk, the mud of the Kokoda Trail some paying the supreme sacrifice with courage that did not fail. To the icy land of Korea, the steamy jungles of Vietnam and the heroic battle of Kapyong and that epic victory at Long Tan. Fathers, sons and brothers, together they fought and died that we may live in peace together, while at home their mothers cried. When that final bugle calls them to cross that great divide those comrades will be waiting when they reach the other side. <https://anzacday.org.au>

*'O Lord, lover of souls, who through the mouth of your prophet of old declared that all souls are yours, we thank you for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefields of war or succumbed to the perils of the deep or of the air. We bless you for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our country who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness. In your hand, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. Grant us to follow their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may with them be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life.'*

*We pray for the situation in Ukraine, may peace be restored'. Amen. <https://anzacday.org.au>*



Aid to the  
Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA

## EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

**ACN AUSTRALIA** has launched an emergency appeal to support the Catholic Church in Ukraine.

Please donate to help ease the burden that the people of Ukraine are shouldering at this time. Please pray for peace and protection for this country and its people. Prayer cards and donation forms are at the entrances to our Churches.

**Christian Meditation Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 11.00 am Friday

**Sisterhood:** Mondays 10.30 am St Teresa Room, Parish Administration

**Parish Youth Group:** In recess for school holidays.

**Ballina CCR :** Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, Admin Centre

**Prayer of the Church and Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church

**Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head:** 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

**Welcome to our prayer gatherings.**

## 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 5:12-16;***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

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. 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.)

3. O Lord, grant us salvation;  
O Lord grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the  
Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

**Second Reading: Rev 1:9-3,17-19;***A reading from the book of the Apocalypse*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

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 but 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.

**PRAYER FOR UKRAINE:** O Lord our God, look down with mercy on the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Grant them steadfast trust in your mercy and protection. O Mother of God, who gave us your miraculous icon at Zarvanytsia, intercede for the Ukrainian people, who run to the shelter of your mercy in their times of need. O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Grant peace and protection to the people of Ukraine. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right, and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual. Hear our prayers, O Lord, and deliver us from distress, for You are merciful and compassionate and love mankind. To You we give glory: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

*By Carrie Duff © permission from catholicicing.com*

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS: 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**
- **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, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you.**



# 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.