

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
Lent (B)**

25th February 2024



**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
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
MASS 12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

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Autumn Ember Day
Friday



We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Frankie Jean and Archer Bernard Andersen** children of Jeffrey and Kellie.



‘CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY BLESSINGS’
Cole de la Rama and Aaron Prior
on their Marriage at Holy Family Church, Lennox Head,
on Saturday 24th February
Love and prayers to you both from all the Parish.



THE PRESENCE: Come on a pilgrimage to Easter watching **The Presence** videos. Rediscover the beauty and reality of Jesus in the Eucharist. **‘Come and see’** 1 video or all 5 over the Lenten weeks. Beginning this **Friday 1st March 4.15 pm to 5.15 pm Mother Teresa Room, Admin Building.** Afternoon Tea provided, then follow with Stations of the Cross at 5.30 pm. **‘Inspiring and insightful’ You are Welcome!**



BALLINA WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ~ PALESTINE
THIS FRIDAY 1st MARCH, 2024 ~ 9.30 am ~ UNITING CHURCH
‘I beg you ... bear with one another in love’
Prepared 4 years ago by Palestinian Christian women living in Australia
All Welcome
(This event has nothing to do with the current conflict.)



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY
BALLINA CONFERENCE ‘JESSE TREE’ AND ENVELOPE APPEAL
THANK YOU to all those who supported the Annual ‘Jesse Tree’ and Envelope Appeal. Your generosity helped us assist those in need in our community to have a brighter Christmas. **\$7,000.00** was received. We have also received generous donations through the ‘Poor Box’ at the back of the Church for which we would like to express our gratitude. **‘Thank you’** If you would like to donate to assist with our ongoing requests for help to those in need. **BSB: 062 000 Account No: 1988 9862 Ref No : 43450**



‘PARISH ‘CUPPA’ AND ‘WELCOME’
TO ALL THOSE NEW TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY
Families who are new to our Parish together with those
who have moved to Ballina are most welcome to morning tea and
to meet your fellow parishioners.
Next Sunday 3rd March, following the 9.00 am Mass,
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church.
‘Strangers are friends you have not as yet met’
All welcome.



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

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

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@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

ROSTER: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B: 2nd/3rd March 2024
Readings : Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 18; 2Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Matt Ritchie Mick Vella</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Nicole Sullivan Richard Goss</i>	<i>Maxine Cole Maurice Gahan</i>
EMOHC	<i>Katrina Miles</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony</i>	<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Mary Goss Ron Hughes</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Antoinette Walsh rsj (<i>Sydney</i>), Keith Smith, Stephen James Fox, Suzanne Wall (<i>Melbourne</i>), Father Kevin Bates SM, THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Boleslaw Jarzynski, Guerrino Gardiman, AND ALSO FOR: <i>John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat Hobbins, 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, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.</i> AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (<i>Dalby</i>), Peter Groom (<i>Dalby</i>), David Le'Fevre (<i>London</i>), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (<i>Sydney</i>), Geoff Johannes, Mary Howard, Robert Ireland, Hallie Butler (<i>infant</i>), Lynette Holland (<i>Tasmania</i>), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (<i>infant</i>), Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (<i>Inverell</i>), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (<i>Tasmania</i>), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (<i>Sydney</i>), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, <i>Aunt</i> y Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, <i>unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life</i>	UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024		
	26th February	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary
	27th February	Tuesday 10.00am	'Cherry' Coffee
	27th February Holy Family Church	Tuesday 10.00am	Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus
	1st March	Friday 12.45 to 3.00 pm <i>Mother Teresa Room Admin Centre</i>	Friday Lunch Alpha Series
	1st March	Friday 4.15 to 5.15 pm	The Presence <i>Mother Teresa Room</i>
	1st March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
	2nd March	Saturday 8.00am Holy Family Church	Our Lady of Fatima devotion
	3rd March	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa & Welcome
	4th & 18th March	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé <i>45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted</i>

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 **use your Planned Giving number as reference.**

DIF PAYS 4.15% 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 or online www.dif.org.au

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS			
First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 847.05	
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 428.00	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,481.55	
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00	

OBEDIENCE BRINGS THE BLESSING

Abraham is a problematic figure in the biblical story. He lies to Pharaoh about his wife, hanging her out to dry to protect his own skin. He does the same thing a few chapters later to another king, Abimelech. But when push comes to shove, at the moment of the test, he ... 'passed with flying colors' as we used to say in school.

Abraham was not perfect, but he did pass where Adam and Eve failed. The Parents of humanity were called to partnership with God in accomplishing his creation plan. They were given a privileged place of rule in the world; they named the animals; they were fruitful and multiplied. But when push came to shove, at the moment of the test, they took the fruit of the tree and ate it. They failed the test. The serpent deceived them, saying, in effect, that God, in forbidding them access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, did not have their good in mind.

They needed to take for themselves the good thing that God held back from them. They decided to determine right and wrong for themselves. Taking the fruit was 'good in their own eyes'. They rejected the only possible path by which they—we—can find the fullness for which we were made. That path is obedience to God's commands. In obedience we are liberated. To ride a bicycle you must *obey*, so to speak, the law of gravity. You must *trust* that collaborating with the bicycle's pedals, seat, and handlebars, and through them, the wheels, will work.

You must submit yourself to be free. Otherwise, you are going to get hurt. The price of being God's (GOD'S!) special collaborator in his creation project is obedience. Trust. We must trust that God has our good in mind, that our Creator is *supremely good*, even when—most especially when—we do not see *how* that can be the case.

Abraham is the Old Testament exemplar of obedience. He was put to the most difficult test imaginable. He trusted God's goodness even through the command to sacrifice his 'one and only son', Isaac. He trusted what God had *promised* him (through his numerous descendants all nations will be blessed) and what God *gifted* him to initiate the fulfillment of that promise (a son).

Obedience brings the blessing. For Abraham, this meant being the father of the people Israel, through whom, finally, the Messiah would come to bless all creation, to bring, in Jesus' words, *the kingdom of God*.

Beyond Abraham, the Messiah, Jesus, passed the test. That test reached its make-or-break moment in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he sweated drops of blood, bringing his fully human will to complete transparency with the divine will, obedience to the point of death, death on the cross. In that obedience, Christ Jesus won *the ultimate blessing* for himself, for humanity, for the world. And he makes us now his collaborators in the project.

W Chris Hackett © Majellan Media 2024



2nd SUNDAY IN LENT
24th & 25th FEBRUARY

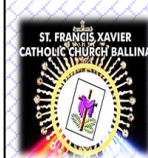


After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



2024 PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION
SATURDAY 23rd MARCH ~ 9.00 am
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH.

Morning tea will complete this special morning of prayer, reconciliation, and reflection as we prepare for Holy Week.

NEW PARISHIONER If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, ***we welcome you to our faith community.*** Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the collection plate or contact the parish office 6681 1048. ***We look forward to meeting you.***

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS TUESDAY
10.00 AM AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LENNOX HEAD.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The first meeting for 2024 is to be held **THIS Monday 26th February at 3.00 pm** in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina. Please consider attending, you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.

You will be most welcome.



'WELCOME HOME' - FATHER ANSELM

We look forward to seeing you over the next week as you settle back into parish life.



DE LA SALLE ARMIDALE REUNION

All Ex-students of De La Salle College Armidale are invited to a School Reunion to be held in Armidale on Saturday 26th October **THIS YEAR**, which is the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the College as we knew it. We need to soon know NUMBERS coming! If you (wife/partner also welcome) intend to come please send a "YES" email dlscarmidale@yahoo.com to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information - Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

Bishop Greg's Lenten Talks ~ Bishop Greg will be holding his Lenten Talks in St Mary's Chapel, Lismore 6.00pm on Monday 26th February and 11th March. Please note there will no talk on Monday 4th March.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA 1st Saturday

Devotions. Rosary will be recited at Holy Family Church Lennox Head on the 1st Saturday of each month commencing on Saturday 2nd March at 8.00 am ***Everyone welcome to attend!***



DIVINE MERCY

Do you know about Divine Mercy and its importance?

Want to understand the background to the Sunday of Divine Mercy?

COME AND SEE!

The Video "TIME FOR MERCY"

Where: At the home of Kevin & Marie Sullivan, 9 Stewart St Lennox Head Ph 0409887677

When: **This** Monday, 26th Feb - 7pm - for 7.15 viewing
Wednesday, 6th March - 9.15am— for 9.30 viewing.
(See also Website - thedivinemercy.org (the basics))



Invest with peace of mind

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.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18;*A reading from the book Genesis*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am,' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:*****(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.***

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

*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: Mark 9:2-10***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY****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 28th FEBRUARY****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 29th FEBRUARY****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 1st 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.**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL****DID YOU KNOW?** • This event in the life of Jesus is known as the Transfiguration. It is traditionally associated with Mt Tabor near Nazareth in Galilee.

• The three disciples who witness Jesus' glory in this episode are the same three who will witness his agony on the Mount of Olives on the night before his death.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: • What have been the occasions when you experienced God in a special way? What did they teach you about God? Share these 'religious experiences' with others.

• A variation from the Collect from today's Mass offers a suitable prayer for this week.

'O God, you have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son. Be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word'.

www.cam.org.au/summit