

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
Lent (C)**

13th March, 2022



**Masks are no longer
mandatory**

'ALL 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—5.00pm
Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASS:
at St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

Feast Days
St Patrick
Thursday
St Joseph,
spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday



PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

A spiritual climb to the top

Mountains play an important role in the bible; often presented as sites of transcendent spiritual experiences and encounters with God. Abraham shows his willingness to sacrifice Isaac and then encounters God on a mountain (Gen 22:1-14).

God appears to Moses and speaks from the burning bush on "Horeb, the mountain of God" (Ex 3:1-2); and he encounters Elijah on the same site (1 Kings 19:8-18). Most impressive of all is the experience of the Israelites at Mount Sinai (Ex 19), in which Moses ascends in a cloud to meet God.

A similar story emerges from the Christian Scriptures, where Jesus often retreats to mountains to be alone (Jn 6:15), to pray (Mt 14:23; Lk 6:12) and to teach his listeners (Mt 5:1; Mk 3:13). It was on a mountain that Jesus refuted Satan's temptation (Mt 4:8; Lk 4:5). And in today's gospel, Jesus ascends a mountain, is transfigured and meets Moses and Elijah (Lk 9:28-36).

In Luke's gospel, the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus signals the start of Jesus' final journey from Galilee to his Passion in Jerusalem (Lk 9:51-19:44). At the end of the journey, Jesus climbs the Mount of Olives and makes preparation for his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his final clash with the authorities on the Temple mount.

What is interesting about this travel narrative in Luke is that it takes place in the "in between" times, wedged between Jesus' ministry on the "holy mountains" of Galilee and Jerusalem. Down on the plains and in the valleys, Jesus and his disciples are in unfamiliar territory. They are separated from their

synagogues in the Galilean hillsides and still distant from their national shrine on Mount Zion.

Along the way to Jerusalem, Jesus' disciples are confronted by Samaritans and people who live on the margins of Jewish society, lepers, disabled beggars, tax collectors and Gentiles. Jesus welcomes, teaches and heals all whom they encounter as they pass by.

Writing for his community, Luke distinguishes between mountain-top experiences

where they may encounter the divine in prayer and worship (Lk 9:28), and the lived experience of faith amidst the diversity and vagaries of their wider human society.

The spiritual writer, Eugene Peterson, sees these passages in Luke as analogous to the life of the Christian "between Sundays." "Samaria," Peterson writes "is the country between Galilee and Jerusa-

lem in which we spend most of our time." It is a place where we need to talk a language that we wouldn't use in church; but which, nevertheless, must be informed and inspired by our retreat to the mountain on Sundays.

This line of thought reminds us of Vatican II where the Sunday Eucharist is described as the source and summit of the Christian life. This Lent, let us take time to reflect more deeply on our mountain top encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist; reflecting on how these experiences can continue to breathe new life into our encounters with the people who share our everyday lives in the "in between" times.

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

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: beemcinnnes@gmail.com

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: Denham Cathro (Sydney), June Ianna, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Carolina Bordin, **AND ALSO FOR:** 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: Tony Smith, Anna, Kerry Jones, Sr Therese Dougherty pbvm, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (Sydney), Noro Ruben Mazzorchi, 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, Dymrna 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.

REVISED NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

- **Hand sanitiser is provided at entrances to our Churches**
 - **Masks are not mandatory, personal choice can be made if you prefer to wear a mask.**
 - **Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only**
 - **Singing is allowed**
 - **Social distancing not mandatory**
 - **Density limits are not mandatory**
 - **If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.**
- 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 Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese (1st collection).

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

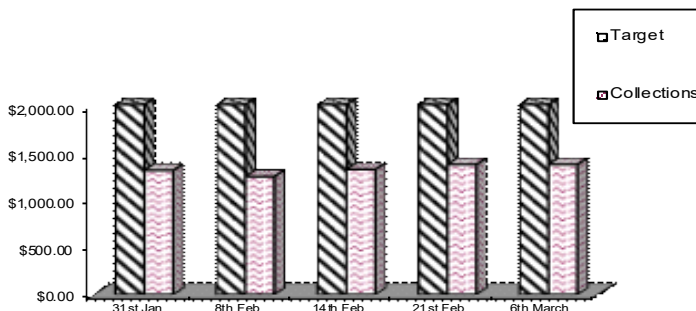
Father Peter and Father Anselm

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

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 992.75
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 325.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,709.10
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.



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:
Evelyn Grace Allan, daughter of Isaac and Laura.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
each **Friday** evening during Lent - **5.30 pm**
SFX Church Ballina.



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 below:

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.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FLOOD APPEAL

Immediate needs of our affected families are food, clothing and housing items or items for their children. While offers of physical resources and equipment are appreciated, unfortunately, it is challenging to store, sort and distribute such forms of generosity. Therefore, we would appreciate donations of *Coles Group and Woolworths Gift Cards (preferably the gift cards that cover groceries plus Big W or K-Mart)*. These Gift Cards can be dropped at the parish office and will then be shared amongst the most needy families by the school as soon as possible. (Approximately 30 families)



BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALKS
The Spirituality of St John of the Cross
Due to flooding, Bishop Greg's talks can be viewed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at **6.00 pm Thursdays**.

St John of the Cross teaches us how to live authentically in the real world and in the presence of God. He shows us how to love and how to pray.

Thursdays: 17th March & 24th March.



SYNOD OF BISHOPS DEADLINE

The online portal to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church is closing this weekend.

How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission?

Online submissions for the Synod on Synodality close midnight Sunday, March 13th. Share your contribution at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Contributions over 250 words may still be made directly to our Diocesan contact Matt Digges mattdigges@scca.net.au



2nd SUNDAY OF LENT Biru's Story—India

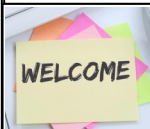


Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkhand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way **For All Future Generations**.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.

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 lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



APPOINTMENT OF PARISH YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

The parish has a new Youth Co-ordinator, replacing Amelia Kearney.

We welcome **Bianca McInnes** to our parish. Bianca will work from the Parish Administration Office.

Contact can be made with Bianca on 6681 1048.



ST VINCENT de PAUL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS Please help us: 'WE NEED YOU'

The St Vincent de Paul Society needs you to serve Christ's poor.

COVID has hit us hard in Ballina in two ways. It forced retirement of our most vulnerable volunteers, we lost 12 members, and at the same time demand for our support increased.

We would normally open 5 days per week, but now with reduced volunteers we can only open 3 days putting a big load on reduced numbers of volunteers.

The Society work helps the poor, but our members gain a deeper understanding of their own spiritual journey by seeing Christ in the face of the poor and vulnerable. Demanding but rewarding work.

This is a Society of friends helping each other and the disadvantaged people of our Parish and the community of Ballina. Local members, with further information will be in the foyer of our Churches to answer any questions or contact us:

Rosetto Leo—recruiting officer:

02 6621 5835

0490 258 139

Email: rosetta.leo@vinnes.org.au

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: Saturday, 6.00 pm Vigil Mass then Youth Group in Upper Room until 8.30 pm.

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.



First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18;*A reading from the book of Genesis*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading: Phil 3:17-4:1*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Phillipians*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and

study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

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: Lk : 9:28-36***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Liturgy Help © 2022*

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**



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.