

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 (B)**

14th January, 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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Feast Day
St Anthony, abbot
Wednesday



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: **Roam Brighton Tartaro** son Soul and Lauren-Rose.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Shari McLeish** who has sadly passed away. A Prayer Service will be held this **Monday 15th January at 1.00 pm**, in Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Mick Ronan** who has sadly passed away. A Funeral Prayer Service will be held this **Tuesday 16th January at 9.30 am**, in Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

Please continue to be mindful and respectful of each other and do not attend Mass if you are unwell or have any cold/flu-like symptoms. The dispensation regarding attending Mass remains.



CATECHISTS: A Catechist meeting will be held on Monday 29th January at 9.30 am in the St Teresa Room, Parish Admin building to plan for the new year. If you are an existing catechist or considering to be a helper you are most welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided.

Holy Family Men's group starting up in Lennox Head.
Contact Murray Parr if you would like to know more 0414 399 658.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: If you would like to help out within our parish with any of our various activities, including laptop operator, musician, singer, hospitality including handing out bulletins and welcoming people, please inform Father or the Parish Office on 6681 1048 - email admin@sfxballina.org.au Thank you.

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. Once applications forms are returned to the Parish Admin Office, preparation meeting and Baptism date can be confirmed.

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 or phone the after hours mobile 0423 445 639

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

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 Ordinary Time , Year B: 20th/21st January 2024
Readings : Jonah 3:1-5; Psalm 24; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Yvonne Head Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Angela Beglin Marie Sullivan</i>	<i>Richard Goss Julie McKinnon</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan</i>
EMOHC	<i>Trish Bazar</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony</i>	<i>Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Mary Goss Ron Hughes</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Lilli Vandk, Mick Ronan, Joan Flew (*mother of Kathy Finch*),
 Michael Stokes, Pat O'Mara, Noel McDonald (*Murwillumbah*),
 Shari McLeish

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME : Cardinal George Pell, Hortense Dunn, Marie Rogers, John Joseph Moreland

AND ALSO FOR: *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 faithful departed.*

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: *Hallie (18 mths) Lynette Holland (Tasmania), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (14 mths), Patrick O'Mara, 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 (Inverell), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (Tasmania), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (Sydney), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunt Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

16th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
29th January	Monday 9.30 am	Catechist Meeting
4th February	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
Save the Date 17th February	Saturday Time tba All Welcome	Men's Gathering
14th February	Ash Wednesday	
Good Friday	29th March	
Holy Saturday	30th March	
Easter Sunday	31st March	

Dear God, thank you for a New Year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

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

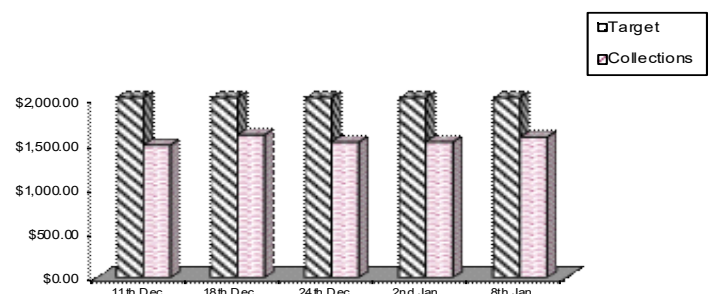
- By making an EFTPOS donation — 1st Collection to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- 2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218

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>	\$ 831.70
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 466.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,560.85
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



LISTENING TO THE LORD

What are we looking for? What is it we want? They're good questions to ask ourselves occasionally, or indeed, have put to us. It's what Jesus asks Andrew and his friend in the gospel. They respond with another question: 'where do you live?' It seems they want to learn from him, but implicit in their question are other questions like, who are you and what are you on about, and where do you abide? Jesus responds saying, 'come and see'. They're pretty much the first words spoken by Jesus in John's gospel and it's an invitation: we're invited to do the same.

We might invite those looking for some meaning in their lives to come and see us. Come and see how we relate to one another and welcome newcomers into our church. Are we able to see him in how we relate to one another? Does Jesus abide with us, because this is his promise, if only we are open to it.

The next day Andrew goes to tell his brother Simon that he has met the Messiah. The day before he had addressed Jesus as Rabbi, now he unexpectedly discovers the truth in what John the Baptist has said, that Jesus is the anointed one, the one on whom the Spirit rests. It's not Peter who calls Jesus the Messiah but Andrew. He's the one who brings people to Jesus; he has the gift of inviting us to come and see. Indeed, the only time he's mentioned in the gospels is in the company of others. We might recognise him in the life of the parish.

Then, when Andrew brings Simon to Jesus he gives him a new name! It indicates a real change in his life, a new relationship with God, a new purpose. However, the 'rock' doesn't emerge till much later because he's as impetuous as ever throughout the gospels, but Jesus sees in him a steadfastness, and similarly, in each one of us. It's the transforming power of God at work in our lives.

In the first reading the Lord comes to the young Samuel who, aided by Eli, is enabled to hear him and take to heart his word. He doesn't dismiss what he hears, but listens to the Lord. Like Jesus, he is the one who listens. As ever, it's the Lord who takes the initiative in coming to us and we have only to respond to his call, wherever we hear it, however unexpectedly.

Finally, in the second reading, Paul lays great store by the body. Our bodies matter to him. Indeed, they're the temple of the Holy Spirit he says, for where else could we experience the Spirit but, in the body, which means not just our own bodies but together in the Church, the body of Christ, we are enabled to do the will of the Lord and, in doing so, to follow him and abide with him. In this is our promise of glory.

Damian Coleridge

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SAVE THE DATE ~ SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ~
MEN'S GATHERING *Further details to be advised.*



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office—Phone: **(02) 6621 9444** or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

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. For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on 6622 7288 or Email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org

CATECHISTS MATTER ~ *Volunteers NEEDED for 2024*

An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.

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.

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 4.30 pm.

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

Parish Spirituality: "To be solidly grounded in, centred on, and shining with divine power is the way we are meant to be. Thomas Merton wrote: "We all exist solely for this – to be the human place God has chosen for his presence, his manifestation, his epiphany." It is an exciting rediscovery of our essential identity. "My deepest me is God," repeated St Catherine of Genoa. "We are God's words," Merton wrote, "We echo him, we signify and contain him." This is to be utterly ourselves. "May all that is un-forgiven in you be released. May all that is un-lived in you blossom into a future graced with love," wrote John O'Donohue. And when we are utterly ourselves we are utterly divine."

*Excerpt from an article by Fr Daniel O'Leary,
The Tablet, 16th May 2009.*



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: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19;
A reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Here am I, Lord; I 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 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:35-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES
TUESDAY 16th, THURSDAY 18th, FRIDAY 19th JANUARY

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 17th JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST ANTHONY

Entrance Antiphon: The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Communion Antiphon: If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me, says the Lord.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

DID YOU KNOW? •Part of the celebration of the Passover festival was the ritual sacrifice of many lambs so that the Jews could eat the Passover meal. In the story of Exodus, the blood of the lamb was shed so that it could be daubed on doorposts and thus enable the people to escape the angel of death. John recognises that Jesus will be the one to give his life for the sake of all.

• 'Messiah' is a Hebrew word which means 'anointed one'. 'Christ' is the Greek word meaning the same thing.

• A disciple is a person who follows a particular teacher and shares his or her views.

MAKING CONNECTIONS • 'What do you want?' If Jesus were to address this question to you, how would you answer?

• Jesus invites the disciples to 'come and see'. Are you ready and willing to respond to this invitation?

• Share the story of the first meeting you had with someone who is significant in your life: a spouse or best friend. What was it that initially attracted you to that person?

• Teaching was an essential aspect of Jesus' ministry. But his style was not to merely give his listeners the facts but to draw them into sharing his understanding and way of life. When these two disciples of John show interest in his way, Jesus invites them to 'come and see'; to experience his way at first hand by being with him.

• The response to this week's psalm is a wonderful prayer of discipleship. Say it often this week.

'Here I am, Lord; I come to do Your will'

www.cam.org.au/summit