

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

11th December, 2022



'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

Feast Days this week

St Lucy
Tuesday

St John of the Cross
Wednesday

The need for patience while we wait

What are you like at waiting? As one person said: "I'm no good at waiting, but one day as I stood in line at a local supermarket I realised I was waiting. Waiting! I was doing what Advent is all about."

That's what John the Baptist, one of the striking Advent figures, is doing in today's gospel. Waiting in prison for news of the Messiah, wondering is this the one he'd been expecting? We all know the feeling given the expectations we might have of Jesus. Perhaps we like what John has said, his stress on the power and judgement of the One to come.

But Jesus says to John's disciples, tell him what you see and hear, that the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lives of those cast out have been transformed. He isn't fulfilling John's expectations so much as calling our attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which is referred to in the first reading.

The lives of those cast out are transformed and, as in Isaiah, where the wilderness blooms now the exile in Babylon is over, they too may return from a kind of exile, full of hope. In today's gospel these are the signs of the kingdom that Jesus points too, rather than God's retribution.

So, what do we see and hear? Can we glimpse the working of God among us in Advent? This may seem a daunting task because we're so caught up in the 'festive season' that any talk of slowing down is best left till Boxing Day. But what if we're able to see something else in what we're already doing?

That's what the woman standing in the queue at the supermarket is doing; she's waiting and that's what Advent is about.

Could standing there, or wherever we find ourselves waiting, be such a moment? Why not put the phone away and wait? And what about a more formal moment, as we light the third, pink candle of the Advent wreath today, on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday?

Amidst the call to pray and to fast, we seek to light a candle and share that light with the forgotten ones, inviting them to eat with us, welcoming them into our lives. In pointing to the Christ who is to come John bears witness to this light. That's the point of his life, doubts and all, and why Jesus says there is none greater.

The point of our lives is to become more Christ-like and discover our 'greatness' in him. In doing so 'the least in the kingdom of Heaven will

be greater' than John is. We rejoice that we're invited to help build up the kingdom and to enable this we must learn to be patient, as the second reading says, waiting in expectation of the Lord's coming, for he will come and is already present among us, not attempting to force God's hand.

In Advent, we're preparing a way for the Lord, realising, once again, that God so loves the world.

Damian Coleridge
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Liturgy Help © 2022

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

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

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

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

ROSTER: 4th Sunday of Advent, Year A: 17th/18th December, 2022
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7 ; Matthew 1:18-24

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Dan Gubby Pauline Fingleton	Annette Reen Gary Reen	Jim O'Kane Maxine Cole
EMHC	Jeanette Wilkins	Julie McKinnon & Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Paul Milgate Murray Deeps	Kevin Lewis	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marilyn Lannan (*Melbourne*), Joan Leach, Fr Louis Molloy SM, Beverley Cathro, Bob Johnson, Rose Norris,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Margaret Pyne,

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: Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*) Carmel Hackett, Michael Harris,, Kristine Bannerman, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson 1 yr (*Brisbane*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunt Julia Paden, Louise King, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John Moreland, 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.* (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.)

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS

December 12th, & 19th	Monday 10.30 to 11.30 am & 3.00 to 4.00 pm	'Incarnate' Advent Sessions
December 16th	Friday 12.00 noon	Anointing Mass
December 17th	Saturday 9.00 am to 11.15 am	Parish Advent Reflection
December 24th/25th 	Saturday Christmas Vigil Masses Ballina 5.00 pm & 7.30 pm 5.30 pm Lennox Head	Sunday Christmas Day Masses 7.30 am Lennox Head 9.00 & 11.00 am Ballina
Save the Date 11th February 2023	Saturday Time tba All Welcome!!	'Coming Closer to Christ through Prayer'

Parish Youth Group will be in recess from this Saturday 10th December.

Anawim Room Prayer Groups: Christian Mediation Saturday 9.00 am : **Marian Cenacle** Monday 11.00 am

Ballina CCR Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm

Sisterhood Monday 10.30 am Saint Teresa Room

Prayer of the Church & Rosary Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church. **Rosary** at Holy Family Church 8.00 am Wednesday

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.

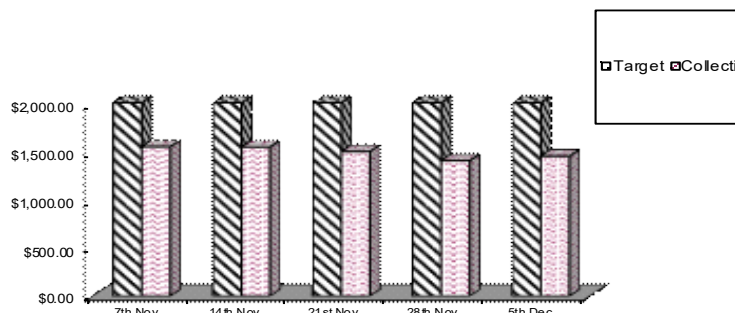
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you use your *Planned Giving* number as reference, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

DIF PAYS 1.75% 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	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 872.85
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 487.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,446.65
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



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:
Daisy May Powell daughter of Timothy and Elizabeth.

PARISH ANOINTING MASS ~
THIS Friday 16th December

12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

5.00 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

5.30 pm— Holy Family Church, Lennox Head

7.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

CHRISTMAS DAY

7.30 am — Holy Family Church, Lennox Head

9.00 am — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

11.00 am—St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

Christmas Roster Year A: 24th/25th December, 2022

Christmas Eve Vigil		Christmas Day
	5.00 pm Vigil Ballina	7.30 am Lennox Head
Readers	Nicole Sullivan John Jarzynski	Damien Kennedy
EMHC	Adam Sullivan Phil Chapman
	5.30 pm Vigil Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina
Readers	Leanne Robbins
EMHC	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell
	7.30 pm Vigil Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Warwick Manning
EMHC Phil Chapman

READERS AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ARE REQUIRED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Please place your name on the board at the back of the Church if you are able to assist. Thank you.

2022 PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION

Next Saturday 17th December at 9.00 am in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.

*** Rosary**

*** Reconciliation**

*** Reflection**

*** Adoration**

*** Benediction**

All parishioners are warmly invited to this parish event in preparation for Christmas.

A 'Cuppa' will be available at the conclusion of this Reflection morning.

ADVENT WREATH

Lighting 3rd Candle

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you bless us with every good gift

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you baptise us with water and the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus you are the bearer of Good News

PEOPLE: COME LORD AND BE WITH US



'CONGRATULATIONS' TO OUR NEWLY COMMISSIONED READERS AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Readers: Dr John Jarzynski
Peter Fear

EOMHC: Lucy Grant
Kristie Coster
Peter Fear



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Ballina Conference

'JESSE TREE'



The Society will be distributing **FOOD VOUCHERS** to needy people this Christmas, which allows our clients to purchase food of **their own choice** for themselves and their families. They will not be able to purchase non-food items such as alcohol or tobacco with our vouchers.

If you wish to help us in assisting these families, please take one of the envelopes from the 'Jesse Trees' in the Churches of St Francis Xavier and Holy Family.

The envelope with donation may be returned to the Vinnies shop at 7 Martin Street, during week days, business hours 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Saturday 9.00 am until 12.00 noon.

Please return envelope by: **NEXT MONDAY**

19th DECEMBER, 2022 for distribution before Christmas.

We **thank you** for your generosity in sharing of God's gifts and helping to make a family's Christmas this year a little brighter.

Every dollar goes directly to those most in need in our local community.

St Vincent de Paul Society St Francis Xavier Conference Ballina

BALLINA COMMUNITY FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

12.00 noon—2.00 pm, Sunday
25th December at St Mary's Anglican Church,
Cnr Norton and Burnett Street, Ballina.

Ham, Chicken, Salads and dessert will be served.

All enquiries to Chris on 0431 630 900

This is an alcohol free event.

Don't be alone on Christmas Day.

ALL WELCOME



JOSEPHITE 2023 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. \$10.00 each.

CHRISTMAS DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Christmas Offering is made to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all those 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 first collection on Sundays and through Christmas and Easter Dues. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others can place an offering in an envelope and write "Christmas Dues" on the outside. By the way, the offering doesn't go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

Thank you for your support.

ENVELOPES CAN BE PLACED ON THE COLLECTION PLATES AT ANY WEEKEND MASS.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Lord come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: James 5:7-10;*A reading from the letter of St James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose

heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.

For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mt 11:2-11***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.' The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER**TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST LUCY**

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.

WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER ~ FEAST OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

Entrance Antiphon: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Communion Antiphon: Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord.

THURSDAY ~ 15th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

FRIDAY ~ 16th DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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