

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

*Respecting the traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people*



**St Francis Xavier Church,  
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,  
Ballina**

*welcome*

**Holy Family Church,  
94 Ballina Street,  
Lennox Head.**

**3rd Sunday of Advent  
Year B**

**13th December, 2020**



**Parish Weekend Mass Times  
St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina**

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm**

**Sunday — 9.00 am**

**Sunday — 11.00 am**

**(200 people capacity)**

**Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head**

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm**

**Sunday—7.30 am**

**(75 people capacity)**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT  
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND A  
weekend Mass by phoning  
6681 1048**

**by Friday at 12.00 noon  
or use the QR codes located on  
the doors of both Churches**

**WEEKDAY MASS:**

**At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY**

**Please register with Parish Office  
or use the QR codes on the doors  
of the Church**

**RECONCILIATION**

**9.00 am Saturday**

**St Francis Xavier Church**

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**Feast**

**St John of the Cross  
Monday**

## Loving the unborn child

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. The Lord is near."* These words introduce the Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (*gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin). On this Sunday, we rejoice in knowing that at Christmas God comes near to us in Jesus.

St John the Baptist announces the meaning of this arrival. Last of the great prophets, he prepares the way for Jesus with his baptism

of water, a sign that God will soon reconcile the world. He calls in the voice of one crying out in the wilderness and makes his prayer and fasting in testimony to the light on the horizon. In Jesus, we find the great joy of our heart's deepest desire, and in St John we discover genuine humility and faithfulness.

The Church has long honoured the importance of St John the Baptist. In fact, we commemorate his death as well as his birth with feast days. But we miss St John's significance for us if we focus only on his relationship with Jesus and not ours with him as well. He models for us the beauty of seeing and witnessing to the light. His humility does not depend on his status or relationship with others; it stems from his steady awareness of God.

Sometimes we need reminders of God's transformative reality in our lives and the encouragement to prepare ourselves well for recognising God's presence. Such reminders

often happen naturally when we prepare for the birth of a child. A pregnancy can bring great joy as well as deep longing and expectation. The parents fall in love with the child well before the day of arrival.

Their lives change because of their love. They make space for someone new in their home; they start to plan differently for the future; they celebrate the advent of a new horizon in the wider circles of their families

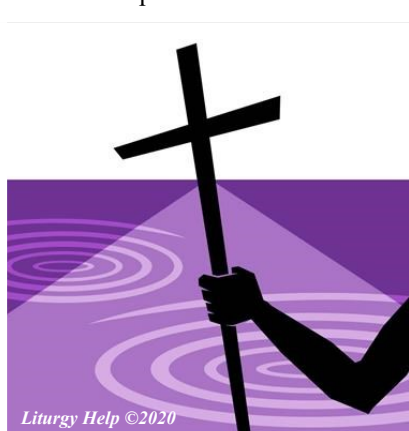
and friends. The birth brings profound meaning to the lives of many people well before it happens.

When I told my mother-in-law that I could hardly believe how much I loved the child in my wife's pregnant body, she told me that I could now understand how much my parents loved me. Most of us are loved by someone in this unbelievably powerful

way. Advent allows us to see one another in this way of being loved. The passers-by on the street, the neighbours next door, the colleagues at work – they are all children of God and powerfully loved. And when we see them in this way, we recognise a deep reality of who they truly are.

St John the Baptist calls us to rejoice for what God does for us in Jesus. He calls us to prepare ourselves for recognising God's presence and for living in a world of people who are unfathomably loved.

Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer  
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**Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship .**

**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 PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

**SCHOOLS:**

**AGED CARE:**

**Administrator of Ballina Parish:** Father Peter Padsungay

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke

**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

**Parish Youth Group Coordinator:** Amelia Kearney

**Email:** parishcouncil@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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Margaret Pyne, Greg Sutherland, Aileen Griffin, Father John Fitz-Walter, Shane O'Brien (Sydney), Paul Brady, Lois Wunsch,

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

**AND ALSO FOR:** Glorie Kelly, Fay Kerslake, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** Danny Reynolds, Meg O'Mara, Greg Shore, Peter Podgorczyk, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans (*6 weeks old*), Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Pauline McLachlan, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Darryl Simpkins, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dymphna Sheehy, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list

## 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. Please observe the 2 square metre social distancing while in our Churches. Contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: TBA CONFIRMATION: TBA RECONCILIATION: 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.

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

## GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Ensure you register prior to attending any Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
  - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
  - QR check-in is also available (Service NSW and Guest Track codes)
    - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
  - **Sit on crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules of 2 square metres (*families can sit together*).
  - **Singing** within the body of our Churches is not permitted and endorsed by our Bishop.
  - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
- Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting or use the QR code.
  - You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.



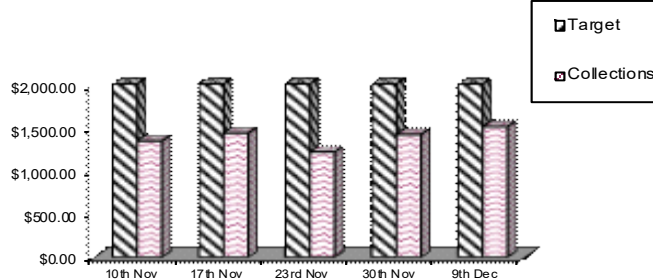
Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

**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**

## THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 819.45
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 334.95
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,506.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



**DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM from 1st December, 2020**

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

**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.

# Parish Notices

**PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.**

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIME BALLINA**  
**2nd Rite this Tuesday 15th Dec 6.00 - 7.00 pm**  
and every Saturday at 9.00 am.

**ANOINTING MASS: THIS Friday 18th December**  
**at 12.00 noon—SFX Church Ballina**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS**  
**5.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**  
**6.00 pm— Xavier Catholic College, Magis Hall,**  
**2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head**  
**with Children's Liturgy**

**7.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**  
**8.00 pm — Holy Family Church, Lennox Head**

## 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.**

Registrations are now being taken — phone the Parish Administration Office on 6681 1048 or email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:admin@sfxballina.org.au) for your preferred Mass.



**SINCERE SYMPATHY:** Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Margaret Pyne** who has passed away. Margaret's Requiem Mass will be held on this Thursday, 17th December at 10.00 am at St Francis Xavier Church.

**Feast of St John of the Cross Mass** Carmelite Monastery, this Monday 10.00 am phone 6624 1240 to register.

## JOSEPHITE 2021 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. The price is still \$6.00 each and they do make a wonderful Christmas gift.



## 2021 COLUMBIAN CALENDARS

Available from the back of St Francis Xavier Church following the 9.00 am Sunday Mass. \$8.00 each.



## ASIA EMERGENCY APPEAL:

Storm surges and flooding devastate South East Asia. You can provide critical lifesaving aid and assistance to the communities in Asia devastated by earthquakes, cyclones, flooding or conflicts. Your donation will ensure that our partners on the ground can respond quickly and efficiently when disasters strike.

The devastation caused by the worst storms and flooding in the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam in nearly a decade, is urging us all to act.

Since early October, Vietnam and Cambodia have experienced unprecedented rainfall and severe flooding. Several people have been killed, and hundreds of thousands of homes have been submerged. The region has been hit by several back-to-back typhoons. Donate to : <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation?DonationCode=ASIA>

## 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**

## BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org), or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by

pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



**Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am**



## 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 Tree' in the Church of St Francis Xavier.

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: this **MONDAY 14th DECEMBER, 2020** 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**

## POPE FRANCIS DECLARES THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis has declared a Year of St Joseph in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

From Tuesday 8th December 2020 until 8th December 2021 the Year of St Joseph will be observed. *Cath News 9/12/2020*



## 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 IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED.**



**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11;***A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. **(R.)**

3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: 1Thess 5:16-24;***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things  
give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you  
to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophe-  
cy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on  
to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may  
you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called  
you and he will not fail you.

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: Jn 1:6-8,19-28***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews  
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who  
are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite open-  
ly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you  
Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He an-  
swered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must  
take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you  
to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah  
prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they  
put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if  
you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the proph-  
et?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands  
among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming  
after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This  
happened at Bethany, on the far side  
of the Jordan, where John was  
baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.



**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love  
You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at  
least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely  
to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.  
[melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)

**CHRISTIAN MEDIATION GROUP:** Meet in the Anawim Room — Saturdays at 9.30 am**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.