

# St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a 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 Easter  
(A)

26th April, 2020

Alleluia

FROM FATHER PETER  
AND  
FATHER ANSELM

Parishioners please be assured of our prayers as we comply with the government's restrictions with social distancing.

Every day in our private Masses we pray that the parish community will be safe from the COVID-19 virus, and that our way of life and the freedom to attend our Parish Masses will resume in the near future.

'We are all in this together'.

God Bless and keep each of you  
Father Peter  
Father Anselm



Feasts

St Peter Chanel

Tuesday

St Catherine of Siena

Wednesday

St Athanasius

Saturday

## God is always with us

Shocked and bewildered after the brutal execution of Jesus, two of the disciples were wrestling with the horrific events they had been swept up in. In their trauma, they were discussing the words and promises of Jesus about the coming Reign of God, and how cruelly their hopes had been shattered with his arrest and crucifixion. They had expected Jesus to be the Messiah, fulfilling the ancient hopes of Israel.

But they were even more baffled by reports from some women in their group that Jesus was not dead. How could this be after what they had been through? Curiously, they do not recognise Jesus when he starts walking by their side, asking why they were so downcast. He patiently explains how the prophets and Scriptures point to the Christ. They still do not recognise him until at the meal that evening, he breaks the bread, but then disappears.

Amazed, they hurry back to Jerusalem with their news, to hear that Jesus had also appeared to Simon.

What an amazing incident. No wonder it was so treasured by the early Christians. Who among us today would not welcome Jesus joining us in our journey, walking with us, and explaining how God's grace was unfolding in the mystery of our lives?

The message of St Luke is that Christ does indeed walk with us in our life journey, as a

community in the breaking of bread, the Eucharist, but as individuals too, in our joys and sadness. Some people have a deep sense of God's love and presence in their lives and families. But others may not feel the closeness of God's touch, and long for such a sense of love and intimacy. It can seem like God is playing hide-and-seek with them.

This is not a bad thing. We are all seekers, and God loves nothing more than for us to seek him out, each in our own way. Just as

the relationship between two lovers is unique, so is our relationship with God. We long to know more about how intensely God loves us, even to the point of laying down his life in Jesus in his total commitment to all humanity.

We are all especially called into the mystery of his Resurrection, by contributing in our own tiny perhaps but graced way

of loving and working to transform the earth into a realm of peace and justice, while realising that Jesus identifies most with those who are distressed or oppressed. We can be sure that God delights in our little lives, and longs to walk with us, especially when our faces are downcast in difficult times. Then we hope we too may feel our hearts burning within us.

Bruce Duncan CSsR

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**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are from 20th March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 204

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

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:** Barry Thomas Schneider, Robert Hosie Snr, Sr Marie Jean Akers, pbvm.,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Paul Griffin,

**AND ALSO FOR:** James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** Sr Martha Casserley, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (Aunty) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (2 yrs), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, Greg Shore, 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, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

### COVID-19 Healing Prayer

*O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us.*

*May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings.*

*Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory.*

*Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world.*

*[Please add your personal own intentions.].....*

*Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking,  
we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God.*

*Amen.*

*Richard Rohr*

*Centre for Action and Contemplation <Meditations@cac.org>*



### Remembering ANZAC Day 2020

**# Light up the dawn at 6am on ANZAC Day:** Go to the end of your driveway, stand on your balcony or in your lounge room facing east from 6am, for a minute silence to remember those who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms allowed to us today.

**# Tune into live services and virtual commemorative services:**

**5:30am:** A national dawn service will be televised on the ABC from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

**10.00am:** RSL NSW will facilitate a 10am televised service.

### Prayers for ANZAC Remembrance

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.

We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

O Lord, lover of souls, who through the mouth of your prophet of old declared that all souls are yours, we thank you for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefields of war or succumbed to the perils of the deep or of the air. We bless you for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our country who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness. In your hand, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. Grant us to follow their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may with them be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life.  
Amen. (<https://anzacay.org.au/prayers-for-anzac-day-services>)

### God Bless Australia

*(Sung to the tune of Waltzing Matilda)*

Here in this God-given land of ours Australia,  
This proud possession, our own piece of earth,  
That was built by our fathers who pioneered our heritage,  
Here In Australia, the land of our birth.

God bless Australia, our land Australia,  
Home of the ANZACs, the strong and the free,  
It's our homeland, our own land, to cherish for eternity,  
God bless Australia, the land of the free.

Here In Australia we treasure love and liberty,  
Our way of life, all for one, one for all,  
We're a peace-loving race, but should danger ever threaten us,  
Let the world know we will answer the call.

God bless Australia, our land  
Australia,  
Home of the ANZACs, the  
strong and the free,  
It's our homeland, our own  
land, to cherish for eternity,  
God bless Australia, the land of  
the free.



Image courtesy Tully Rosenburg

**Lost:** Ladies gold bracelet. Sentimental value. If found contact parish office on 6681 1048

# Parish Notices



## SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Barry Thomas Schneider** who has passed away.  
A private funeral within the government guidelines has taken place.



## 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 [lismore-diocese.org](http://lismore-diocese.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**

**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**

## MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

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### CATH NEWS

[www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

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**Google Catholic Masses and click your choice**

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**AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV**

**Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ Mass 6.00 am**

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

**Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioners with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.**

- **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 reference  
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, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month.  
Thank you**

## 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)

## Gospel Reflection ~ Hearts on Fire

The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread and at that moment he disappeared. The immediate reaction of the disciples might have been to dismiss the notion that Jesus had been with them as wishful thinking. However, they remind each other that their hearts had been set on fire by Jesus as he spoke to them along the road. It is an extraordinarily powerful image; to set hearts on fire.

Yet, that experience is not locked in the pages of the Gospel; Jesus continues to set hearts of fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.  
Greg Sunter, *Bite Size Thoughts on the Gospel* <http://liturgyhelp.com>



## PROJECT COMPASSION

**AUSTRALIA** Don't forget to return your envelopes. They can be returned to Parish Admin during office hours Thank you.

## REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

**Father Peter and Father Anselm are thinking and praying for all during this difficult time of social distancing and at times disconnectedness. The parish office is open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm or phone 6681 1048.**

**Just to let you know, Sr Kathryn has been dropping hard copies of the bulletin to parishioners who are unable to access the bulletin on-line.**



“Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire.” *Sr Catherine of Siena*



**DIF PAYS 1.10% PER ANNUM AS FROM 14TH APRIL 2020**

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

## EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all 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 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

**First Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

(R) *'Lord, you will show us the path of life.'*

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21***A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake.

Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:*****Alleluia, alleluia!***

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

***Alleluia!*****Gospel: Luke 24:13-35***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516



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