

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 in
Lent (A)**

15th March, 2020



**Parish Weekend
Mass Times**

St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday Vigil ~ 6.00 pm

Sunday ~ 9.00 am

Holy Family Church

Lennox Head

Sunday ~ 7.30 am

**This week's daily
Parish Mass times**

Monday ~ 8.00 am

Tuesday ~ 5.20 pm

Wednesday ~ 10.00 am

Crowley Chapel

Thursday ~ 9.30 am

Holy Family School Mass

Friday ~ 12.00 noon

Reconciliation

****2ND RITE— 5.30 PM**

WEDNESDAY**

Saturday 9.00 to 10.00 am

also on request

Rosary, Prayer of the Church

Saturday 9.00 am

Adoration

Friday 11.00 to 11.45 am

Feast Days

St Patrick—Tuesday

St Joseph—Thursday

Encountering Jesus

Going to Jacob's well was her daily chore. She went to the well with the heavy weight of the water jar on her shoulder and the heavy weight of people's judgment in her heart. That was why she chose the unusual time to come to the well, about noon.

Ordinary women from her place wouldn't come to the well at noon. They came to the well in the evening (Genesis 24:11). But she was not an ordinary woman. She was an extraordinary one. In the eyes of others in her town, she was a sinful woman, someone they would like to talk about and not talk to. She had lived with five different husbands. And now she lived with a sixth man. This might be the reason she came to the well at an unusual time. She wanted to avoid the embarrassment of people staring at her with their judgmental eyes.

Jesus chose the same time, an unusual time. The reason was similar. Jesus heard that people, especially the Pharisees started to talk about his increasing popularity. So, he decided to go back to Galilee. John writes Jesus was tired from his journey. He wanted to rest (4:6), so he went to the well at an unusual time.

But it was at a moment like this the encounter occurred. It was a very special encounter between a "sinful" woman who wanted to avoid people and the tired Lord who didn't

want to be disturbed. It was an unplanned encounter but ended up with a long conversation. If the definition of a prayer is conversation with the Lord, this is the longest prayer in the gospel.

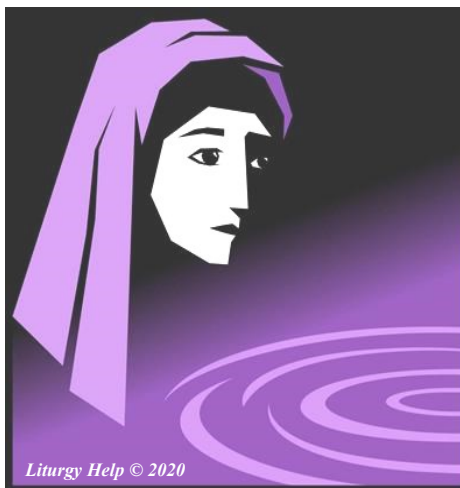
John writes at the end of the conversation at chapter 28: "The women left her water jar and ran to the town." That was the first time in her life she went back home without the burden of her water jar on her shoulder and the burden of shame in her heart. After the encounter with Jesus, her life became lighter. Jesus has freed her from her every day burden. She ran back to the town to tell others that she has encountered the messiah and was a sinner no more.

Many of us live with our everyday burdens; marriage breakdown, the death of a loved one, unpaid bills, the unreachable dreams.

We carry these heavy burdens like the Samaritan woman. Here, we have her story about the need to encounter Jesus. We too need to encounter him, tell him our story and to let him lift these burdens from our shoulder. And if we experience this kind of salvation from our encounter with him, we need to tell our story so that other people might come to him as well and find salvation.

Mans Boli CSsR

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Liturgy Help © 2020

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

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

ROSTER: 4th Sunday in Lent, Year A: 21st/22nd March, 2020
Readings: Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Offertory Procession
		Greeters: Tye Hetherington, Zac Sullivan, Genevieve Starr		9.00 am ~ Ballina
Readers	Trish Bazar Yvonne Head	Michelle Sullivan David Sullivan	Mary Steenson Wendy Hughes	<i>Leanne Robbins Mary O'Brien</i>
Ext. Ministers Holy Communion	Margaret Ellis Pauline Fingleton Maureen Murphy Phil Chapman	Julian White	Mark Biddle Gemma Duffy Cathy Andrews Cathy Campbell	
	Monica Anderson	Marie Sullivan	Lea Lane	
Altar Servers	<i>Liam, Benedict, Rose & Sophie Meany</i>	<i>Zayneb Hetherington Maya Grimwood</i>	<i>Emma Comin Olivia Comin Noah Gerrish</i>	
Children's Liturgy		Jo Scotcher Rebecca Kennedy		

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Neta Anne Mirkovich, Pat Grant, Barry Kelly, Jim Walsh, Mira Slavic,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Carolina Bordin, Boris Jarzynski, Elne Verdeflor,

AND ALSO FOR: Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Stephen Hill, 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, (Aunt) 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, Dymphna 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*

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held at any time in either Church on any day. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: 22nd March, 2020. Groups start 23rd February.

CONFIRMATION: 28th May, 2020. Parent Meeting: 1st April

RECONCILIATION: 2nd September, 2020. Parent Meeting: Wednesday 29th July.

WEDDINGS: In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK: during Mass on dates to be advertised during the year, and on request; and at regular intervals at the hospital and aged care facilities.

HOSPITAL: Catholic patients in Ballina Hospital are visited by a member of the parish team on a regular basis. Given the difficulty we have in obtaining names of those in hospital, a visit is made to **those who tell us** they are in the hospital. We will only know someone is in the hospital if we are told by family or friends. This is due to the Privacy laws that govern our nation.



ORGAN CONCERT

**St Mary's Anglican Church
38-42 Norton Street, Ballina.
Sunday 22nd March, 2020**

3.00 pm

by

DAVID RECCIA CHYNOWETH, Italy

Featuring

Bach, Haendel, Mendelssohn, Elgar, Boëllmann

Entry by Donation

You are most Welcome!

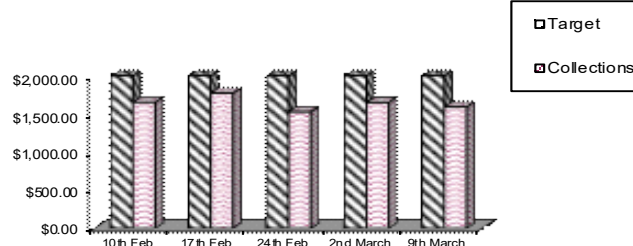


DIF PAYS 1.40% PER ANNUM

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	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 1,299.25
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 683.05
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,591.80
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 in the foyer of the Church. Please complete your details and place on the collection plate in the envelope provided, or 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



BAPTISM: This week the parish warmly welcomes **Grace Ann McLeish** daughter of Daniel and Cathryn. We look forward to seeing the newly baptised and her family worshipping with us each weekend.

PARISH 2ND RITE

THIS WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH
5.30 PM— SFX CHURCH, BALLINA



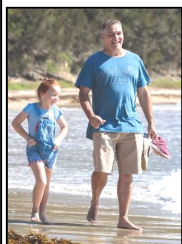
FEAST OF ST JOSEPH ~ 19th MARCH
Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj
and all Josephites
'Happy and blessed feast day'
for Thursday from the parish family
of St Francis Xavier, Ballina.



On behalf of our Parish
'CONGRATULATIONS' to
Bryan Marriott and Michael Shay

who were honoured this week by Bishop Greg on behalf of Pope Francis as Knights of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

PROJECT COMPASSION— Week 3 Australia



Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family. Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may be been life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect. Today, thanks to the Caritas support, he's an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Quote: May the strength of God pilot us,
May the Wisdom of God instruct us,
May the hand of God protect us
May the Word of God direct us.**



St Patrick www.catholic.org



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This week's focus ...

'Liturgy of the Eucharist'

Jesus said 'I am the Bread of Life'. When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion we are called to reach out to others to bring His life to the world.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Next Sunday 22nd March, 11.00 am

'WELCOME' ~ CHELSEA GORMAN

as you begin your faith journey.
The prayers and support of St Francis Xavier parishioners are with you.



LENTEN TALKS ~ BISHOP GREG

Focus ~ 'Holiness'

St Carthage's Cathedral Lismore ~ 6.00 pm

Tuesday 17th March

Tuesday 24th March

All most Welcome!



2020/2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation parent meeting

Wednesday 1st April

Upper Room Parish Administration Centre

6.00 pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY 28th MAY

SFX CHURCH 'CUPPA'

Sunday 29th March

after the 9.00 am Mass at SFX Church, Ballina.

Helpers on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Everyone is Welcome.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The next Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be
Monday 23rd March—3.00 pm

at Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street.

Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre.
WELCOME !

Diocesan Fire Appeal Collection Results: As of 28th February, a total of \$137,122.28 had been raised. Of this, \$122,877.50 has been distributed, which leaves a remainder of \$14,244.78. The money has been used for the following purposes: 123 households have been given \$500 = \$16,500 ~ \$40,000 has been given to Richmond Valley Council to allow them to clear fence lines ~ \$1,377.50 was given to Rappville Cemetery to rebuild a fence and \$20,000 was given to Macleay Rural Supplies who allocated the money to assist the needy in that area. *Thank you for your generosity.*

(continued from page 4) water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7;*A reading from the book of Exodus*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with these people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm*(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8*A reading from St Paul to the Romans*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this (continued page 3)

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHIONERS FROM BISHOP GREG:
RE: CORONAVIRUS**

Since the Australian Government has indicated that there has been transmission of Covid-19 Virus within Australia, I must, in accord with specialist medical advice, make some rulings concerning the celebration of Mass in our Diocese.

- In order to prevent the passing of the virus from hand to hand **there will be no sign-of-peace** until further notice.
- To prevent the possibility of the transmission of droplets from one person to another during the reception of Communion **all Communion will be given on the hand and not on the tongue** until further notice.
- As advised previously **the Chalice will not be shared** with the congregation.
- Please be advised that, should you be feeling unwell, you are relieved from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. **Sick people should not attend Mass.**
- **All Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to sanitise their hands** with sanitising gel before distribution.
- **Holy Water will not be used at the entrances of churches.**

Let us pray for the protection of all parishioners and the end of this virus.

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

***** Additional copies of this message are available in the foyer of both churches *****



Christian Meditation Group: is held every Saturday at 9.30 am in Anawim Room.

Ballina CCR Intercession Mondays from 10.45 to 11.45 am in the Anawim Room. **Prayer Meeting:** Mondays 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room

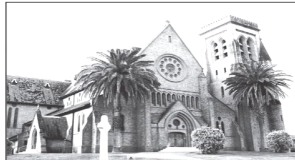
Centacle Marian Movement of Priests: Monday 11.00-12.15 at 3/21 Swift St, Ballina. Details Admin Office

Parish Youth Group: Saturday 6.00pm - Mass then to

St Francis Xavier School Hall, Crane Street.

Sisterhood: Monday 10.00 am Mother Teresa Room, Parish Admin Centre.

Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy: is held every Wednesday 8.00 am Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday mornings from 11.00 to 11.45 am at SFX Church Ballina (except when there is a funeral that day). **All Welcome!**



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www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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 CDIF 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 Ballarat 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.