

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 in Lent
(A)**

12th March, 2023



'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

St Patrick

Friday



Finding God amongst the outcasts

Over the next couple of weeks, we move from the Gospel of Matthew to the Fourth Gospel. Often described as the “spiritual gospel,” this gospel presents Jesus’ teachings in the form of long theologically-charged speeches or his many-levelled interactions with various characters representing key groups within first-century Roman Palestine. Today’s gospel is no exception. The dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria in this passage is among the most historically interesting and the most theologically profound in the New Testament. To astute readers of the gospels, this story comes as a surprise. One would not expect the Jewish Jesus to be found in conversation with an unaccompanied woman in public; and, more significantly, a woman from neighbouring Samaria; a territory and people with whom the Jewish community had a hostile relationship.

Samaritans shared with their Jewish neighbours a common ancestry and a common faith in God (YHWH). But they were considered ethnically and religiously tarnished because they had intermarried with foreigners and adopted aspects of pagan worship into their religious practice.

The story reflects something of this history. It indicates the Samaritan woman had ‘many husbands’ prior to her present partner.

Typical of the Fourth Gospel, there are various levels of meaning here. On the one hand, the reference can be understood as an obvious allusion to the dubious ethnicity of the Samaritans. On the other hand, it may be meant literally, indicating that the woman’s irregu-

lar relationships had made her an outcast in her own community too.

Jesus breaks several social taboos in first speaking to the woman, and then sharing her drinking vessel. In the eyes of his fellow Jews, Jesus acted shamefully in speaking with the woman alone. And in drinking from the same cup he rendered himself ritually “unclean” – unfit to enter the precincts of the Temple and offer prayer to God. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple, even though she is neither a Jew nor a “respectable” member of her community. She returns to her town and proclaims the gospel and succeeds in leading others to Jesus.

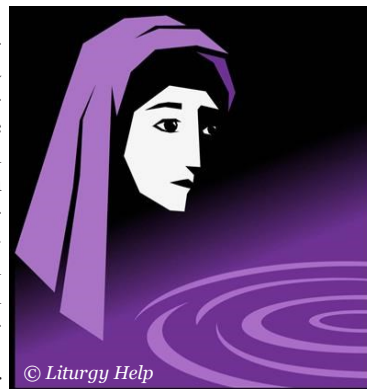
There are at least two lessons to be learned from this passage. First, there is nothing that we have done in our past or in our present situation that prevents us from finding God in our lives. Second, genuine

Christian communities must be open and welcoming. Christianity is meant to be counter-cultural.

It cuts across all conventional boundaries that separate people, communities and nations from each other. But such boundaries do not separate us from God, who loves us and is open to giving us a second chance. There is nothing in our past that should prevent us from proclaiming the gospel, especially to those closest to us: our family, friends and neighbours.

Ian J Elmer

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We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney **Email:** john@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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: 4th Sunday of Lent Year A: 18th/19th March, 2023 Readings: 1Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1, 6-9,13-17,34-38			
	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Matthew Ritchie Kristie Coster	Annette Reen Gary Reen	Maurice Gahan Helen Cooney
EMHC	Katrina Miles	Gemma Duffy Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Sue Hetherington Mick Vella	Angela Beglin	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
Michael Curgenvin, Shirley O'Brien, Deirdre Hourigan (Sydney),
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Carolina Bordin

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: Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (Tasmania) Tanya White, Kathryn Nomchong, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (infant Brisbane), Carmel Hackett, 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. (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023		
16th March	Thursday 10.00 to 11.00 am 5.30 to 6.30 pm	'Presence' <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist</i>
17th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
27th March	Monday 3.00pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
30th March	5.30 pm Thursday	Confirmation
1st April Saturday	Parish Preparation for Holy Week 9.00 am	*Mass/Lauds *Reconciliation *Reflection

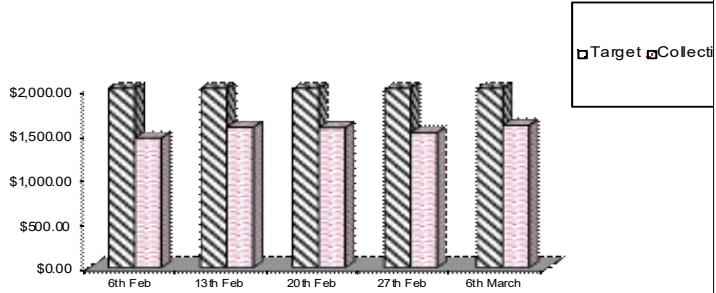
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
Thursday 30th March ~ 5.30 pm
St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
FIRST RECONCILIATION
Tuesday 23rd May
5.00 pm St Francis Xavier Church
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 20th August 9.00 am
St Francis Xavier Church

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 Presbyterian 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 Planed 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 3.20% 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	\$ 937.75	
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 509.75	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,587.00	
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 **warmly welcomes** into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Georgie Rae Tancred** daughter of Stephen and Kylie; and **Mila and Malu Laranjerira Miranda** daughters of Fabio and Eduarda.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church.

'WELCOME' 2023 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

This week there are **'Pray for Me'** cards in baskets on the altar. Parishioners are asked to take a card and pray for that candidate whose name is inscribed on it.

We welcome each candidate and their family to our weekend Masses.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Thursday 30th March in St Francis Xavier Parish Church. Please gather at 5.30 pm.



RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Invitation to 'Journey with us'
ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO....

- Has expressed an interest in becoming a Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptised?
- Was baptised Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist on 11th June, 2023.

You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

For further information and enrolment please contact Parish Administration Office by phoning 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM HOLY THURSDAY ~ MASS

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

GOOD FRIDAY ~ LITURGY

3.00 pm ~ Lennox Head

3.00 pm ~ Ballina

HOLY SATURDAY ~ VIGIL

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

7.30 am ~ Lennox Head

9.00 am ~ Ballina

11.00 am ~ Ballina



APPLICATIONS FOR A CLEANER

ST ANNE'S LONG DAY CARE CENTRE is seeking a Contract Cleaner to commence Monday **22nd May 2023**, cleaning the Children's Centre at the end of each day Monday to Friday.

Please contact Centre Director on 66875961 for further details.



LENNOX HEAD COMMITTEE

The last dinner for parishioners before the recess of the 5:00 p.m Vigil Mass will be on Saturday 25th March.

Two tables are booked. Come and relax.

The next meeting will be on **Friday 24th March** in the Sacred Heart Room at 9:30 a.m. Father Anselm will be joining us. You are welcome to come and provide input at the meeting.



PROJECT COMPASSION Third Sunday of Lent 11th and 12th March

Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



PARISH ANOINTING MASS FRIDAY 31ST MARCH ~ 12.00 NOON

Bishop Greg's next Lenten talk will be held on this Thursday 16th March at 6.00 pm in St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore.

SATURDAY 1st APRIL PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH

To prepare for Holy Week

9.00 am ~ St Francis Xavier Church

Mass/Lauds, Reconciliation, Reflection

Morning Tea will be provided **All welcome.**



ASPIRE—YOUNG ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION with Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

Monday 27th March from 5.30—6.30 pm

Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 862 6265 5784 Password: 157840

For more information contact: Sr Di, CM 0405 327 153

youth@stcarthages.org.au

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office: If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: Monday 11.00 am St Teresa Room Parish Admin.

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX

Church

Parish Youth Group: 7.00 pm Saturday evening, Upper Room Parish Admin Centre

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

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 this 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 the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

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 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 worshiper 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.

FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER

TUESDAY 14th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Communion Antiphon: Lord, who may abide in your tent, and dwell on your holy mountain? Whoever walks without fault and does what is just.

WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Lord, who may abide in your tent, and dwell on your holy mountain?

Communion Antiphon: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

THURSDAY 16th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

FEAST OF ST PATRICK ~ FRIDAY 17th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

Communion Antiphon: What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.



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