

# 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  
Ordinary Time (A)**

**22nd January, 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**

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**Feast Days**

**St Francis de Sales**

*Tuesday*

**The Conversion of St Paul**

*Wednesday*

**St Thomas Aquinas**

*Saturday*

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**Australia Day**

*Thursday*

**Mass 12.00 Noon**

## People who found the light

Galilee was no one's idea of a place that could launch a 'world changing movement'. Galilee's history was not glorious. The readings today refer to it as the "land of Naphtali", which was one of the breakaway tribes of the Jewish people that formed the northern kingdom of Israel.

According to the Old Testament, these tribes did not remain faithful to God, committing idolatry and gross injustices. The northern kingdom was later invaded and its people taken captive by the Assyrian empire. The area around the Sea of Galilee remained largely deserted for centuries.

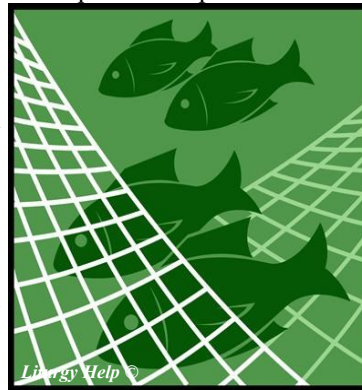
By the time of Jesus, Galilee had been repopulated by Jewish people who had formed several prosperous towns and villages. Although its population was fervently Jewish, their countrymen in Judea and around Jerusalem regarded Galileans as barely qualifying as Jewish, with their blended ethnic heritage and stereotypes about them being lax in religious practice.

They had identifiable accents and would have been regarded by Judeans as their less-sophisticated country cousins. Throughout the Gospels the Judeans repeatedly dismiss Jesus and his disciples when they learn they are from Galilee.

These are people today's readings describe as "people who walked in darkness", and with history the Scriptures depict as 'degraded by God'. But it is to the people of Galilee, "on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is a fitting example

of how God ministers first to the lowly and humble and chooses them to do wonderful things for him. The people of Galilee are the first to hear the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Their people are chosen to be disciples of Israel's promised Messiah and messengers of God to the ends of the earth. And it is to the Galileans that Jesus first travels "teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."



Today's gospel brings us hope for our own land, currently assailed by secularism and our own history of injustices. Our country could also be a spark for God's plan of salvation for the entire world. What we learn is that God is looking to bring the kingdom of heaven to people who have the humility and willingness to follow him.

If the kingdom of heaven is to come through us, then it must start with the two messages that Jesus' preaches in the gospel: "Repent" and "Come after me." Jesus calls the people of Galilee, and us today, to leave the darkness of our past sins behind us and follow him, the one true light.

May we all pray that we, a people who walk in darkness, see the true light of Christ and become "fishers of men" for him to the ends of the earth. May every corner of our country know Jesus' teachings, his healing and his love for people.

Joseph Doyle

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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 Year A: 28th/29th January, 2023**  
**Readings: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; Psalm 145; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Matt 5:1-12**

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
<b>Readers</b>	Matt Ritchie Abbie Beecher	Mark Biddle Nicole Sullivan	Warwick Manning Jim O'Kane
<b>EMHC</b>	Kristie Koster	Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Maurice Gahan
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
<b>Readers</b>	Sue Hetherington Mick Vella	Jean MacKay	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Cardinal Georg Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Jack Gabler (*Brisbane*),  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Stan Parry, Jack Patch, Camille Martin, Coralie Moreland, Joan Charteris,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Jack & Marie Flood, Beatrice Flood, 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:** Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, 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, Aunty 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**

<b>January 24th</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry Coffee Club' Morning Tea</b>
<b>5th February</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Cuppa</b>
<b>11th February 2023</b>	<b>Saturday 10.00-11.30 am All Welcome!!</b>	<b>'Coming Closer to Jesus through Prayer'</b>

**PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA**

'God of Australia .. We bring you our gratitude for the diversity and wealth of this land and its people; for its weathered old mountains, fertile valleys, and vast plains; for its riches — agriculture, oceans, forest, and grazing lands; for the first Australians, who know and love this continent with an intimate, profound sensitivity; for the courage, vision and sacrifice of the early settlers; for the diverse races who now call Australia home: For these and all your gifts we offer you, O Lord, our joyful, thankful hearts. Amen.'

*An Australia Day prayer by Bruce Prewer in his book, Australian Prayers*

**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.

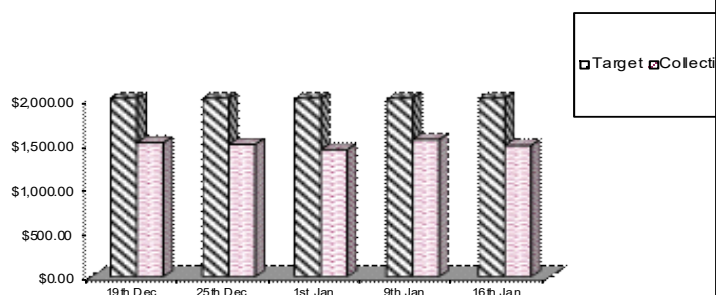
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you **use your 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 2.60% 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](http://www.dif.org.au)

**THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 976.40
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 618.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,471.50
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: **Tallow Mitchell King** son of Jacob and Mikayla.



**'CHERRY COFFEE CLUB'**  
**Ladies** of our parish you are invited to gather for morning tea. Our first for 2023.  
**10.00 am THIS Tuesday**  
**24th January 2023**  
**Cherry Street Bowling Club.**  
**No booking required. All welcome**



**'CONGRATULATIONS' TO OUR NEWLY COMMISSIONED READER AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Reader: Abbie Beecher**  
**EOMHC: Katrina Miles**



**PARISH 'CUPPA'**  
**in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church**  
**Sunday 5th February, 2023**  
**following the 9.00 am Mass.**  
**Our first for the year.**  
**Everyone is very welcome.**



## NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, **we welcome you to our faith community.** Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the box provided or contact the parish office.

If 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 and monthly deductions by Credit Card.  
**We look forward to meeting you.**

## COMING CLOSER TO JESUS

**Saturday 11th February ~ 10.00 am to 11.30 am**  
**St Francis Xavier Church Ballina**

A prayer reflection experiencing World Community for Christian Meditation and Scripture Journaling of MenALIVE **All Welcome**

## PARISH YOUTH GROUP DONATION BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Our St Francis Xavier Parish Youth Ministry is a growing, thriving youth group that relies on your generous support. Your donations can help support initiatives such as: Materials for our regular youth events ~ Food, items and other resources for our activities ~ Financial support for youth in need ~ Materials needed for conferences, youth camps, World Youth Day and other events.

**If using electronic transfer please direct your donation to St Francis Xavier Parish ~ Ref 'Youth'**  
**~ BSB 082 522 ~ A/c 50960 3218 Thank you.**



**CATECHISTS MATTER**  
**Volunteers NEEDED for 2023**  
**An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.**

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE and LOVE in GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools?

Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

**Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.**



## 2023 LENTEN PROGRAM 'TRIUMPH'

**Let's have Lenten Reflection groups!**  
**Come out of Covid isolation and join with others in the 'Triumph' program (from the Wollongong Diocese)**  
**What day and time would you like to come?**

**Please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church.**

**Reminder! Ash Wednesday 22nd February.**

**AUSTRALIA DAY MASS**  
**ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH**  
**12.00 NOON THIS THURSDAY**



**AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY**  
**THIS THURSDAY ~ THE PARISH OFFICE**  
**WILL BE CLOSED**

## REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS ST ANDREW'S AGED CARE

59 Bentinck Street, Ballina.

If you have some spare time during the week and you would like to make a positive difference to residents in St Andrew's please consider this opportunity.

For further enquiries regarding this request please phone Todd, St Andrew's Project Officer on 6620 5800

Thank you.



**SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2023**  
**You are invited to St Joseph's Church**  
**Coraki Centenary Mass at 9.15 am**

## 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](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

**Christian Mediation ~ Saturday 9.30 am ~ Anawim Room, Admin Centre**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~ Friday 11.00 am—11.50 am**

**Parish Youth Group is in recess**

**Marian Cenacle is in recess**

**Ballina CCR is in recess until Monday 30th January, 2023**

**Sisterhood is in recess**

**Prayer of the Church & Rosary ~ 9.00 am Saturday mornings ~ St Francis Xavier Church**



**First Reading: Isaiah 8:23– 9:3;***A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. **(R.)**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

**Second Reading: 1Cor 1:10-13, 17***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for

Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: Mt 4:12-17***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER****FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES ~ TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord, will be their God.

**Communion Antiphon:** It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last

**THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL ~ WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I know the one in whom I have believed and I am sure that he, the just judge, the mighty, will keep safe what is my due until that day.

**Communion Antiphon:** I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself up for me.

**AUSTRALIA DAY ~ THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples, among the nations sing psalms to you, for your mercy reaches to the heavens, and your truth to the skies.

**Communion Antiphon:** Bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget his benefits.

**FRIDAY ~ 27TH JANUARY 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



# Invest with peace of mind

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



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