

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and future, the Bundjalung people.



**St Francis Xavier Church,  
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

*welcome*

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

### Third Sunday of Advent (B)

**17th December, 2023**



### Weekend Mass Times Ballina

**St Francis Xavier Church**

**Saturday Vigil— 5.30 pm**

**Sunday — 9.00 am**

**Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Lennox Head**

**Holy Family Church**

**7.30 am**

### WEEKDAY MASS

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
MASS 12.00 noon**

### RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina  
St Francis Xavier Church**

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*We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.*

### PARISH NOTICES

#### 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**



### PARISH UPDATE

Earlier in the year our Parish identified a wonderful opportunity to revitalise in concert with the broader Diocesan review currently underway.

I express my deep gratitude to our parishioners who have and continue to engage selflessly in this revitalisation process.

Because when we renew and revitalise our parish we inject new life, new hope and stronger connections as an expression of our love for God, faith and our neighbours.

Part of this renewal identified the need to develop a succession plan for our Parish Finance Council and Senior Parish Team.

After almost 40 years service, Bob Hosie recently resigned from the Parish Finance Council. We thank Bob for his wonderful service and wish him well in his retirement.

I'm pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Steve Barnier to the Parish Finance Council
- Michael Penhey to the role of Parish Business Manager

Steve is well known in our Parish and in the community having been a long-term senior executive at Ballina Shire Council. Steve has provided extraordinary service to the Parish Aged Care Board since 1993 and held the position of Chair from 2004 until 2017. He brings a wealth of experience to the Parish Finance Council.

Michael too is well known in both our Parish and local communities. Michael has served in the role of Parish Aged Care Services Manager (including as the CEO of Crowley Care) and Deputy Parish Business Manager for the past 23 years. Michael has also been an ex officio member of the Parish Finance Council for the same period. As the Parish Business Manager, Michael will lead strategic elements, projects and developments for our Parish whilst continuing in his aged care role.

The catalyst for Michael's appointment has been Paul Lloyd deciding to reduce his working week. As a result, Paul will continue his current duties with the new title of Parish Finance Manager. Paul's title will be amended to Parish Finance Manager, although his day-to-day duties will essentially remain.

*Father Peter Padsungay, Parish Administrator*

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

**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

**Deacon:** Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

**Pastoral Associate:** John Kearney Email: [john@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Kailani Tiernan Email: [ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; Email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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 Advent, Year B: 23rd/24th December, 2023**  
**Readings : 2Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

	<b>Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>Sunday 9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>John Jarzynski Trish Bazar</i>	<i>..... Marie Sullivan</i>	<i>Mark Biddle Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Cheryl Bowen</i>	<i>Kevin Sullivan</i>	<i>Margaret Tay Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Greg &amp; Katie</i>	
	<b>5.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil</b>	<b>LENNOX HEAD 7.30 am Christmas Day</b>	<b>9.00 am Christmas Day</b>	<b>11.00 am Christmas Day</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>John Jarzynski Mick Vella</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Richard Goss Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>Maxine Cole .....</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Pauline Fingleton Leanne Robbins Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Maddy Pride</i>	<i>Denise Miller Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>.....</i>
<b>7.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil</b>				
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton</i>			
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>..... Phil Chapman</i>			

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Una Smith, Maureen Collins (*Sydney*), Genie Enright (*Beaudesert*), Bryan Kassulke (*Brisbane*), Peter Dignam, Cheryl Dowdell, Peter Newport, John Woolbank, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME :** John Beglin, Peter Podgorczyk, Beatrice Flood **AND ALSO FOR:** *John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat Hobbins, 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, 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:** Hugo Long (*14 mths*), Patrick O'Mara, Graham Clark, Shari McLeish (*Orange*), Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham Mick Ronan, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*), Joan Flew, Hugo Long, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care,*

**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**

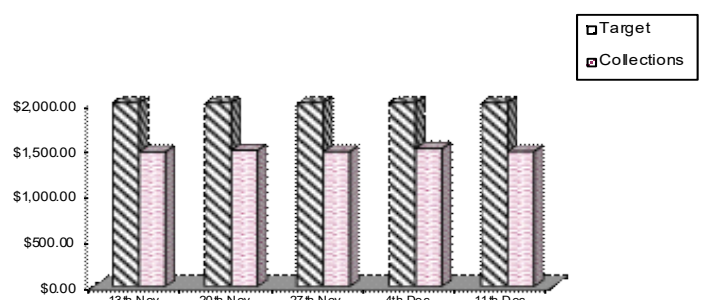
**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ \*\*1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION\*\*:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information.

- 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 4.15% 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>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 770.70
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 407.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,470.05
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



**Bishop Greg's  
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023**

As Christmas approaches we are reminded of the way that God came into our world with humility and great love. The baby Jesus is for each of us. At Christmas time, I always take the opportunity to remember the good things that I have received this year and indeed in my life. In the midst of such uncertainty and suffering we should turn our minds from negativity and focus on a few positive moments of love and personal dignity. Each of us is valuable and esteemed by God. Each of us has helped another person and can remember instances when we have received love and care.



If like me, you feel helpless in these difficult times, and wonder what you can do to change the seemingly helpless situation everyone is facing, I suggest that we learn from Christmas. We can change the world by doing little things which express love and hope. We can change the world by loving others. One by one we can reassure and bring hope to the hopeless. Please join me in this.

Happy Christmas, I send you my wishes and prayers.

*Bishop Greg Homeming OCD*

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM :** Thank you to all parishioners who have contacted the Parish Administration Office regarding the difficulty we are experiencing with the sound/microphone system. There have been many attempts to rectify this, and it is ongoing. We are hoping technicians will be able to locate the problem and have it working in time for Christmas. Thank you for your patience.

**ALL WELCOME TO OUR FINAL TAIZÉ FOR 2023 THIS MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 12.00 NOON IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA** Please Note: Taizé will be in recess during January 2024

**'CHERRY' COFFEE MORNING WILL BE IN RECESS FOLLOWING THIS TUESDAY'S GATHERING — WE WILL RETURN TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024**

**PARISH VOLUNTEERS MASS THIS TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 12.00 NOON**

**PARISH ANOINTING MASS THIS Friday 22nd December ~ 12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.**



**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 18th DECEMBER, 2023** 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**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023  
CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS**

**5.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**

**7.30 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**

**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.**



**'CONGRATULATIONS'  
XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
YEAR 12 STUDENTS**

on your outstanding HSC results.

Excellent results were achieved across all courses.

Wishing all our HSC students all the very best for the future.

**WARNING!!**

**SCAM EMAILS & TEXT MESSAGES ARE ABOUT**

There have recently been reports of scam emails and texts that appear to be from members of the clergy.

*Clergy and parish staff will NEVER request you to donate cash, gift cards or pre-paid visa cards for a non-specific purpose.*

**Please be alert to suspicious emails  
or text messages.**



**SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ~  
MEN'S GATHERING**

**Further details will be available in January**

**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 ON THE COLLECTION PLATES AT ANY WEEKEND MASS.**



**Invest** with peace of mind

**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.

**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: 1Thessalonians 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 prophecy  
 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: John 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 openly, 'I am  
 not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am  
 not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, '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 prophet?' 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.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land,  
 for he is our Saviour.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.

**WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth,  
 and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

**THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon, and his name will be called Emmanuel, because he will be  
 God-with-us.

**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are you who have believed, that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

**FRIDAY 22nd DECEMBER**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

**Communion Antiphon:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL**

**DID YOU KNOW?** • In the early years, there was rivalry between the disciples of John the Baptist and of Jesus. This gospel  
 makes it clear that John does not see himself as a rival to Jesus but as a witness to him. It is Jesus who is the one sent from  
 God.

• Bethany, as mentioned in this gospel text, is not the same town which was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They lived  
 close to Jerusalem but the Bethany mentioned here lies on the east bank of the Jordan River.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS** • Have you ever been asked to be a witness to something or someone, or even perhaps to  
 write a reference? How did you find that experience? Was it an easy or difficult task? Share your experiences with the group.

• Meditate on these words of Isaiah this week:

*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me for the Lord has anointed me.*

*He sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken. How can you do this?*

- John came as a witness to the light of Christ. How does this light shine in you? Light a candle each time you pray this week.
- Bring light to someone's life this week by a visit, a phone call a gesture....