



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.**

3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

14th December, 2025



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

Sunday —7.30 am

**WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon Ballina**

ADORATION FRIDAY
11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday
St Francis Xavier Church

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We invite everyone to our faith community.

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



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomed* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church on Saturday 6th December :

Hazel Mary and Bobbie Isabella Jones

daughters of Luke and Samantha; and

Milla Coleman daughter of
Anthony and Karina.



FUNERAL NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of
MARY EVANS who has sadly passed away.

A Requiem Mass will be held **THIS Monday** 15th December at 1.00 pm
in St Francis Xavier Church.



FUNERAL NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of
ADELAIDE KING who has sadly passed away.

A Funeral Prayer Service will be held **THIS Tuesday** 16th December at
9.30 am in St Francis Xavier Church.

PARISH ANOINTING MASS ~ THIS Friday 19th December
12.00 noon St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



CHRISTMAS 2025 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Times

- 5.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**
- 7.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**

Christmas Day Mass Times

- 7.30am – Holy Family Church, **Lennox Head**
- 9.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**
- 11.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**

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

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 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 Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associates: email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

Holy Family Primary: Principal: Mr Murray Deeps - 02 6687 5311 - 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Lee MacMaster - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive,
Skennars Head

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A: 20th/21st December 2025
Readings: Isaiah 7::10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Shyla Gooley Mick Vella	Damien Kennedy Angela Beglin	Nicole Sullivan Richard Goss	Maurice Gahan Bernadette McQuillan
EMOHC	Yvonne Head Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Sue Hetherington	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole
Offertory Procession			Amy Derrick Livia Kenk	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Hosking Pippen, Adelaide King, Sgariboldi, Luigi (Italy), Gino Bordin, Mary Evans,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Alane Atangana-Etundi, Una Smith, John Beglin, Peter Podgorczyk, Beatrice Flood

AND ALSO FOR: *Vincenza Borroni, Jack & Marie Flood, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.*

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Daniel Freeman, Luke Willett, Gloria Bordin, Veronica Bennett (*Gold Coast*), Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (*Sydney*), Paddy Mulgrew (*Northern Ireland*), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (*Brisbane*), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Daphne Sweeney, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Auntie Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Please advise*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

15th December	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
16th December	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
19th December	Friday 12.00 noon	Anointing Mass

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CONNECT**

ALL ARE WELCOME ALL BELONG

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT NEWSLETTER
The fifth edition of the parish 'CONNECT' is now available in our Churches and online. Don't miss out on your **FREE** copy of the final edition for 2025. **CONNECT** will be back in 2026.

COLUMBAN 2026 CALENDARS are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 each
MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS are available from the Parish Office. \$10.00 for a packet of 10.

**PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST
LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED
FOR 5.30 PM VIGIL MASS ~ 9.00 AM SUNDAY
MASS ~ 11.00 AM SUNDAY MASS**
It is with great hope that we look forward to a heartening response to this call for assistance.
Please contact the Parish Office 02 6681 1048.
Thank you

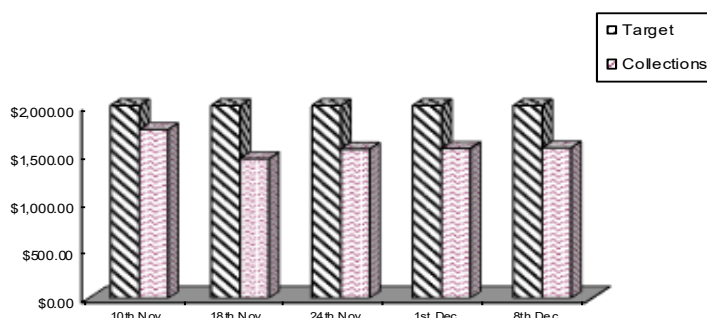
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Erick**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS 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 use your **Planned Giving number as reference.**

DIF PAYS 3.40% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, **L J Hooker**
87-89 River St Ballina 026686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099 or online www.dif.org.au

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 997.45
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 526.10
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,561.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Sharing the light during Advent

What are you like at waiting? As one person said: "I'm no good at waiting, but one day as I stood in line at a local supermarket, I realised I was waiting. Waiting! I was doing what Advent is all about."

That's what John the Baptist, one of the striking Advent figures, is doing in this week's gospel. Waiting in prison for news of the Messiah, wondering is this the one he'd been expecting? We all know the feeling given the expectations we might have of Jesus.

But Jesus says to John's disciples, tell him what you see and hear, that the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lives of those cast out have been transformed. He isn't fulfilling John's expectations so much as calling our attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which is referred to in the first reading.

The lives of those cast out are transformed and, as in Isaiah, where the wilderness blooms now the exile in Babylon is over, they too may return from a kind of exile, full of hope. In the gospel these are the signs of the kingdom that Jesus points too, rather than God's retribution.

So, what do we see and hear? Can we glimpse the working of God among us in Advent? This may seem a daunting task because we're so caught up in the 'festive season' that any talk of slowing down is best left till Boxing Day. But what if we're able to see something else in what we're already doing? That's what the woman standing in the queue at the supermarket is doing; she's waiting and that's what Advent is about.

Could standing there, or wherever we find ourselves waiting, be such a moment? Why not put the phone away and wait? And what about a more formal moment, as we light the third, pink candle of the Advent wreath, on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday? Amidst the call to pray and to fast, we seek to light a candle and share that light with the forgotten ones, inviting them to eat with us, welcoming them into our lives. In pointing to the Christ who is to come John bears witness to this light. That's the point of his life, doubts and all, and why Jesus says there is none greater.

The point of our lives is to become more Christ-like and discover our 'greatness' in him. In doing so 'the least in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater' than John is. We rejoice that we're invited to help build up the kingdom and to enable this we must learn to be patient. As the second reading says, waiting in expectation of the Lord's coming, for he will come and is already present among us, not attempting to force God's hand.

In Advent, we're preparing a way for the Lord, realising, once again, that God so loves the world.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

St Francis Xavier Conference

'JESSE TREE'/Christmas Appeal



As we commence Advent, you will notice the 'Jesse Trees' in our churches. This year we join the 'Jesse Tree' and Christmas Appeal together as one. Your donations over the next 4 weeks will enable the Conference to distribute Food Cards to people in need this Christmas, allowing them to purchase food of their choice.

How to Help:

1. Take an envelope from the Jesse Tree in the Church. Donation options are on and inside the envelopes.
2. Complete your donation (cash or other) and return the envelope on a collection plate at a Mass over the next 3 weeks; or return the envelope to a Vinnies Shop, at 7 Martin Street, Ballina or Shop 5, 64 Ballina Street, Lennox Head during business hours: Weekdays: 9 am – 4 pm Saturdays: 9 am – 12 noon.

It would be appreciated if the envelopes can be returned by **Sunday 21st December 2025**. Thank you for your kind generosity in sharing God's gifts and helping to make Christmas a little brighter for families and individuals doing it a little tougher this Christmas.

Oh! how happy the man of means who uses his wealth and his life for the greater glory of God, from whom he has received them!" ~ Vincent de Paul

Please do not return envelope to the tree with your donation enclosed.

DON'T BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

Free Community Christmas Lunch

Christmas Day 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm

at St Mary's Anglican Church Hall,

Cnr Norton & Burnet Streets, Ballina.

Ham, Turkey, Salads and Dessert

This is an alcohol free event.

All are welcome.



Did you know?

1st & 2nd Collections

The **1st Collection** is your donation to the support of our **Priests and the Clergy of the Diocese.**

The **2nd Collection** is your donation to the **upkeep** and **running of the Parish.** This includes expenses such as electricity, insurances, building maintenance and upkeep of Church equipment.

A sincere thank you to all that continue to support our parish through planned giving and weekly collections.

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00 ea

READERS & EOMHC : If you are available to assist with our Christmas Masses please add your name to the roster sheet at the back of the Church.

Thank you. Your assistance will be appreciated.

2025 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH CHRISTMAS ROSTER (roster board at the back of church)

5.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Readers

Julie McKinnon & Mick Vella

EMOHC

..... & ~ Phil Chapman

7.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Readers

Trish Bazar &.....

EMOHC

.....

9.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

Tony Hunter &.....

EMOHC

Denise Miller & Cathy Campbell

11.00 am Mass Christmas Day

Readers

John Jarzynski &.....

EMOHC

.....



Diocesan
Investment
Fund

Interest Rate — 3.40% For further information and our current rate, Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
 let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
 let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
 let it rejoice and sing for joy.
 The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
 the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
 they shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the splendour of our God.
 Strengthen all weary hands,
 steady all trembling knees
 and say to all faint hearts,
 'Courage! Do not be afraid.
 'Look, your God is coming,
 vengeance is coming,
 the retribution of God;
 he is coming to save you.'
 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 the ears of the deaf unsealed,
 then the lame shall leap like a deer
 and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
 for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
 They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
 everlasting joy on their faces;
 joy and gladness will go with them
 and sorrow and lament be ended.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger
 and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: James 5:7-10*A reading from the letter of St James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*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: Matthew 11:2-11***A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS****TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER, 2025 ~****Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.**Communion Antiphon:** The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.**WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER, 2025****Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.**THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER, 2025****Entrance Antiphon:** Christ our King is coming, he is the Lamb foretold by John.**Communion Antiphon:** His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.**FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 2025****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.**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The Word Messiah means 'anointed one' in Hebrew. The word Christ means the same thing in Greek.
- The healing of those who are afflicted was one of the signs given in the Hebrew Scriptures that the Messiah had come. When the blind see and the deaf hear; when the downtrodden are raised up and the lame walk, the reign of God will have come.
- John the Baptist was arrested and executed by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great and ruler of Galilee, because John had criticised Antipas for his marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias, who was also his niece.

CHRISTMAS MASS FILMING : You are warmly invited to the filming of Christmas Mass with Bishop Greg Homeming OCD. Please join us at 12.45pm on Thursday 18 December at St Carthage's Cathedral, 6 Leicester St, Lismore.

More information can be found at: lismorediocese.org