

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 in
Ordinary Time (A)**

25th January 2026

**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

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

5.00 PM Ballina

THURSDAY AND 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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AUSTRALIA DAY

Monday

MASS AT 9.00 AM

Feast Days

St Thomas Aquinas

Wednesday

St John Bosco

Saturday

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 6686 2042

***AFTER HOURS MOBILE:** 0423 445 639*

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

BAPTISM : Our parish family **warmly welcomes** into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this weekend :
Amelia Ann McDonald daughter of Justin and Racheal.



**AUSTRALIA DAY
MASS**

**THIS Monday 26th January
9.00 am**

St Francis Xavier Church Ballina



AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY Monday 26th January, the Parish Office will be closed. We will reopen on Tuesday 27th January at 8.30 am. If you urgently require a priest please call 0423 445 639

Our first for 2026 'PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, next Sunday 1st February, following the 9.00 am Mass and 11.00 am Mass.
Everyone is very welcome.



**WELCOME BACK
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF OUR
THREE SCHOOLS**

**May 2026 be a year of many blessings and successful
achievements for everyone.**

Catholic Charismatic Renewal

We invite you to come to our meetings:

Praising God
Seeking The Holy Spirit
Listening to God's Word
Praying for petitions, healing and intercession



In 2026 our scripture journey will be in the footsteps of the Apostles as they build the early Church

From Monday 2nd February
1:45 – 3:15 in the Anawim room
Come early for coffee/tea from 1:15
Phone: Maxine 0429 669 029

COLUMBAN 2026 CALENDARS are still available from the Parish Office.

\$10.00 each

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 Associate: Brendon Clarke 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 Deep - 02 6687 5311- 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Michael Campbell - 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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 31st January/1st February 2026
Readings: Zephaniah 2:3; 3-12; Psalm 145; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Trish Bazar Jeanette Wilkins	Marie Sullivan	Annette Reen Gary Reen	Warwick Manning Leanne Robbins
EMOHC	Katrina Miles Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Maddy Pride	Tony Nilon Cathy Campbell	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			Christian Sullivan Gabriel Tay	
Announcer			Margaret Tay	Maxine Cole
Laptop Operator			Richard Goss	Maxine Cole

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rasan Ilamurugan (*father of Naz Ilamurugan*)

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Littorio Kenk, Nola Rodey, Joan Woolbank, Angela Crowley, Tom Crowley, Brian Harris, Michael Timmins, Sharon-Lee McNiff Parkes, Kathleen Hicks

AND ALSO FOR: Beatrice Flood, Sr Agnes Mary Flood LCM, Chaiöl Balcombe-Jackson, 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: Brian Dye, Andrea Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Caceres, 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, *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*).

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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2026

27th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
28th January	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
1st February	Sunday 9.45 am & 11.00 am	Parish Cuppa Grounds of the Church
2nd February	Monday 5.30 pm	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
3rd February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus Lennox Head
5th February	Thursday 10.00 am	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
18th February	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to be involved in our weekend Masses, assisting with the Offertory procession, Mass laptop operator for 11.00 am Sunday Mass, or being a 'welcomer' or handing out the parish bulletin, please advise the Parish Office. Perhaps you might like to help when we have our 'Parish Morning teas' once a month or be a part of the music ministry. Your assistance in any of these activities will be greatly appreciated. Contact 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au

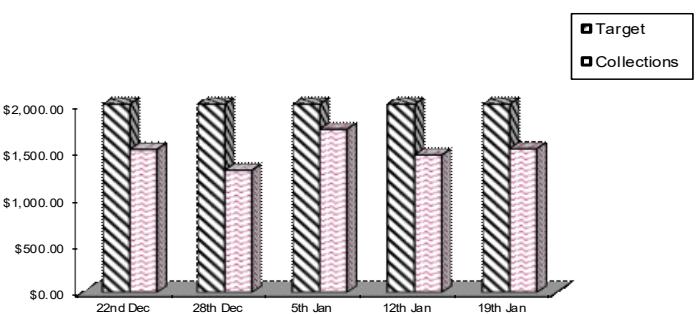
Thank you.

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 Presbytery 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 SEPARATELY 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 Presbytery 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>	\$ 1,419.15
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 366.10
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,526.20
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



The true 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 © Majellan Media 2026



AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

O God, powerful and gentle, you love this southern land and all its peoples, old and new.
As the Cross shines in our heavens so may Christ bring light to our nation.

As the waves encircle our shores so may your mercy enfold us all.

O God, the wonders of our vast and rugged land reflect your beauty, ever ancient, ever new.

May your blessings flow upon us as a stream in the desert, and may your spirit prompt us to use your gifts for the good of all.

May God who formed our southern land be for us a rock of strength.

May God who rules our southern seas keep us safe in every storm.

May God who made our southern skies turn our darkness into light. Amen.

CATECHISTS Volunteers NEEDED for 2026 ~ 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?

For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

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 4.30 pm.

Join us as we journey through THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW



Monday's at 5.30 pm
From 2nd Feb



Matthew
The King and His Kingdom

8 session video series
presented by Jeff Cavins
with time for questions
and discussion.



Thursday's at 10 am
From 5th Feb



Saint Teresa Room
Ballina Parish Admin Centre

Discover how Jesus
fulfills God's promises
to Israel and establishes
his kingdom on earth.

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.

Taizé: In recess.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday 11.00 am
Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church Ballina

CCR: Monday 1.45—3.15 pm from 2nd February MTR.
Marian Cenacle: Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.

Parish Youth Group: In recess

Devotion to the Holy Face: In recess until 3rd Feb
menAlive: Every second Wednesday 8.00 am Lennox Head

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.

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

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: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

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: Matthew 4: 12-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

MONDAY 26th JANUARY ~ AUSTRALIA DAY MASS 9.00 AM

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.

TUESDAY 27th JANUARY ~ MASS AT 5.00 PM

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.

WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST THOMAS AGUINAS MASS AT 5.00 PM

Entrance Antiphon: Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy

Communion Antiphon: Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen, I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all his property

THURSDAY 29th & FRIDAY 30th JANUARY ~ MASS AT 12.00 NOON

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. o

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- When the people of Israel returned to the Promised Land after their liberation from Egypt, the land was divided among the twelve tribes descended from the twelve sons of Jacob. Zebulun and Naphtali were two of those sons.
- The town of Capernaum stood on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, on the border of the areas given to these two sons of Jacob.
- Matthew uses the term kingdom of heaven rather than Kingdom of God. This may have been because his audience is largely Jewish, and Jews avoided using the sacred name of God.
- This is another example of Matthew stating that, in Jesus, the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah coming are fulfilled.

THANK YOU to all Parishioners and Visitors to our Parish over the Christmas and holiday time ensuring that our children and vulnerable adults were supported and protected while attending Mass.

