

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 C**

23rd January, 2022

**QR check-in is
mandatory and the
wearing of a mask**

'ALL WELCOME'

**Weekend Mass Times
Ballina**

**St Francis Xavier Church
184 people per Mass**

Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm

Sunday — 9.00 am

Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

70 people per Mass

Saturday Vigil—5.00pm

Sunday—7.30 am

PLEASE QR IN UPON ARRIVAL

**Manual registration is also
provided.**

WEEKDAY MASS:

**at St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY**

12.00 noon

**Register with NSW QR codes or
manual registration sheets.**

RECONCILIATION

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

Feast Days

St Francis de Sales ~ Monday

The Conversion of St Paul

Tuesday

St Thomas Aquinas ~ Friday



Australia Day

Wednesday

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042

AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Repentance clears the way for hope

Today's gospel follows John the Baptist's preparation of the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah. John's mission is to communicate as clearly as possible that God's people are in feeble spiritual health. John knows that God's chosen one is coming to offer a new way of knowing and relating to God.

So, John exhorts them to repentance so that they will turn towards God with their whole hearts and respond to God's coming decisive action in the world.

Repentance can be a painful prospect when we must confront ourselves for the selfish people that we often are. Repentance also comes with the pain of discarding those desires and actions that we know hurt ourselves or others but that we hunger to keep enjoying. But, as we can see in the crowd's response, the baptiser's words don't cause people to be fearful or despairing. Instead, John's exhortations stir up genuine expectation within their hearts.

John's promise of God's just judgement and the call to repentance is a sign to the Jewish people that the time of God's salvation and intervention in the world is at hand. The promise that God is going to act decisively in the world is now being fulfilled. Instead of fear, the crowds know the hope of being gathered, like wheat, into God's dwelling place. The same can be true for us. The act of repentance often feels like taking a pickaxe to the hard soil of our own hearts, digging

through the dry crust so that something can take root, grow and produce fruit. Once we let God break through our self-absorption and start to surrender our lives to God in concrete ways, we begin to experience the hope of a new life of joy and peace that we can have with God. In this way, repentance clears the way for hope to emerge.

In today's gospel, John is talking to a people who now realise their spiritual poverty and see that not only do they need to change how they live, but they want to change and can change. In response, John's advice to the crowds is profoundly practical. There are identifiable changes in how people can go about their work and daily lives that will turn them back to God's way. We can see here that the repentance that God desires applies to even the most mundane features of our lives. The works of mercy that John describes are not just products but features of authentic repentance.

And this is the glory of the baptism through the Holy Spirit referred to by John. John's baptism relied on the individual's willpower to turn and conform their lives to God's will. However, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, pours into us the grace of God. This gift of God's grace slowly transforms us into new creatures that are fully capable of lives oriented towards love and justice in communion with God and our neighbour.

Joseph Doyle

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**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their
Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.**

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Marie Rogers, Sr Patricia Smith RSM (Sr Mary Pauline), Betty Bellamy (Portland), Jean Ruth Brady, Alane Atangana-Etoundi,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Jack Patch, Cammille Martin, Coralie Moreland
AND ALSO FOR: Joan Charteris, Fr Leo Donnelly, Stan Parry, Beatrice Flood, Glorie Kelly, 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: Sr Therese Dougherty pbvm, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (Sydney), Noro Ruben Mazzorch, Dorothy Preddey (Sydney), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Kathleen Campbell, Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (Caloundra), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Dymrna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (Dubai), Corazon Accon, Pauline McLachlan, Darcy Martin, (Aunty) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolbach, Samantha Anderson, Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Names of those who are ill will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest.

Under the current restrictions of 2 square metres people to sit in pews marked with X. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

CONFIRMATION: TBA **RECONCILIATION:** 22nd March, 2022. **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

WEDDINGS: In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

ANointing OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

HOSPITAL: If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship.

NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

- Covid-19 check-in is mandatory for places of worship.
- Manual registration is available, place your name and contact on sheet provided
- Please wear a mask while indoors
- Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing by choir only
- 2sq metre density limit while seated—Social distancing of 1.5m when standing where possible and practical
- If unwell please stay home until you feel better



Any amended public health orders that come into place will be followed.

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 (1st collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

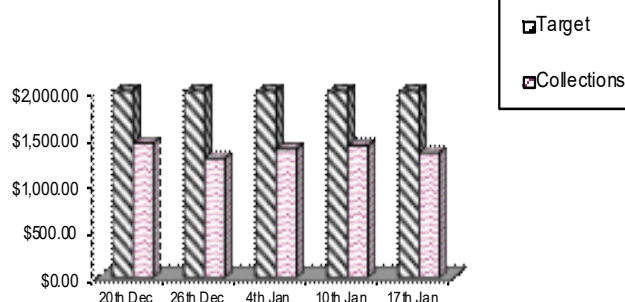
Father Peter and Father Anselm

DIF PAYS 0.45% 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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 492.80
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 212.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,338.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and 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.

Parish Notices

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



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Banksia and Lennox Basire-O'Brien** children of Stephen and Clare.

'CONGRATULATIONS' THE CLASS OF 2021 YEAR 12



STUDENTS XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE on your outstanding HSC results. Excellent results were achieved across all courses. Wishing all our HSC students all the very best for the future.



**AUSTRALIA DAY
PUBLIC HOLIDAY—MASS
Wednesday ~ 12.00 noon
St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.**

Prayer for Australia

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. www.northsydneycatholics.com



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 (02) 6621 9444 or
email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



SUMMER HOMILY SERIES WITH THE GOSPEL BY BISHOP GREG HOMEMING

Bishop Greg invites you to access each week this new series by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube 'Bishop Greg's Summer

Series'.



**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**

PRAY FOR TONGA

Tonga is reeling after a violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock.

Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater.



Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with the emergency response.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific or call **1800 024 413 toll free to make your donation.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Ash Wednesday 2nd March, 2022**

- Easter Sunday 17th April, 2022**



AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Reflect – on our histories, our connections, our lands.

Respect – our traditions, our cultures, our peoples.
Celebrate – our future, our survival, our voice.



Quote from Noel Pearson

- 'Australia is home to the longest continuous cultures on Earth. First Nations cultures have continued uninterrupted for millennia, adapting, evolving and growing undisturbed by civilisation-ending war, cultural decimation or natural disaster.'
- Australia is the inheritor of the British colonial project which saw the establishment of British styled infrastructure and institutions.
- Australia is the most successful multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country on Earth'.

www.nma.gov.au

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:



Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. All enquiries: Please phn 6621 7288 or Email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: is in recess

Parish Youth Group: is in recess

Ballina CCR : is now in recess until 31/01/2022

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: is in recess until Saturday 5th February 2022

Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head: 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

First Reading: Neh 8:2-6, 8-10*A reading from the book of Nehemiah*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one

body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS: 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
- **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the**



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.