

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.**

**4th Sunday of Advent
(A)**

18th December, 2022



'WELCOME'

**Weekend Mass Times
Ballina**

**St Francis Xavier Church
Saturday
Christmas Eve Vigil — 5.00 pm
and 7.30 pm**

**Sunday
Christmas Day — 9.00 am
and 11.00 am**

Lennox Head

**Holy Family Church
Saturday
Christmas Eve Vigil — 5.30 pm**

**Sunday
Christmas Day — 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**

Little fanfare for Jesus' birth

When there is a major announcement of a forthcoming event, it is usually accompanied by a media statement and even a press conference. Sometimes social media influencers are also invited to create some excitement and "buzz" around the announcement. Companies like Apple, Tesla and Boeing spend millions of dollars to launch their latest products worldwide.

Similarly, when a famous celebrity couple welcomes a new addition to the family, it's all over the news services and social media, sometimes for days on end. It's like no other news is worthy of airtime.

However, when God chose human form in Bethlehem, there was no spectacular announcement. There were no bells and whistles, no fireworks. In fact, there was nothing but a bright star that attracted little attention except for a few wise men who travelled from the east. The birth of Jesus probably didn't attract much interest outside the immediate families of Joseph and Mary, perhaps to spare Mary embarrassment such was the unusual nature of the baby's arrival.

The biggest event the universe has witnessed had taken place with little fanfare. In the scheme of things, this was even bigger than the creation of the universe itself. Even the universe must have 'held its breath'.

That speaks of God preferring to work quietly, unseen and unnoticed. Choosing to be like

many of us who work quietly in our offices, schools, our homes.

For many people, our lives are simple and uneventful. Nothing spectacular happens and little that would warrant much outside attention. But it is in that simple, uneventful and unspectacular 'living' that God comes as one of us in order to bring us all closer to God. That's what happened to Joseph and Mary

and that same invitation is also open to everyone. That's the underlying meaning of the name Emmanuel, "God is with us". That God wants to be with us in the very ordinariness of our lives.

The world today can sometimes be loud, vulgar and crass which is opposite to God coming to us in a quiet,

ordinary way as a normal man. That's why the angel said to Joseph that there is no need to be afraid because God will come to be his son like any ordinary boy.

Big announcements and even big events will come, and they will go. Prominent companies and famous people will come and eventually be confined to the history books, but God is the one constant. Perhaps it is not us who waits for God, but God with loving patience who waits for us. We need to realise that God is amongst us now in our everyday, mundane lives and will be with us for all eternity.

Mark Chia CSsR
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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

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Bianca McInnes **Email:** bianca@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: Christmas Masses, Year A: 24th/25th December, 2022
Readings Vigil Mass: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
Readings Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

	5.00 pm Christmas Eve Vigil	7.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil	9.00 am Christmas Day	11.00 am Christmas Day
Readers	Nicole Sullivan John Jarzynski	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Leanne Robbins	Warwick Manning Maxine Cole
E. Ministers Holy Communion	Adam Sullivan Phil Chapman Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell
	LENNOX HEAD 5.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil		LENNOX HEAD 7.30 am Christmas Day	
Readers Mick Vella		Damien Kennedy Marie Sullivan	
E. Ministers Holy Communion	Sue Hetherington		Kevin Sullivan	

ROSTER: Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Year A: 31st December, 2022—1st January, 2023
Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Pauline Fingleton Trish Bazar	Nicole Sullivan Richard Goss	Maurice Gahan Warwick Manning
EMHC	Phil Chapman	Adam Sullivan & Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	
Readers	Wally Carter Sue Hetherington	Jean MacKay	 

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Betty Chandler, Marilyn Lannan (*Melbourne*), Joan Leach, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Peter Podgoreczyk, Beatrice Flood **AND ALSO FOR:** Jack & Marie 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: 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.* (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.)

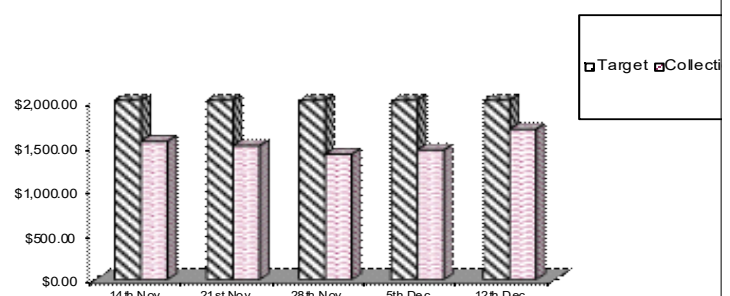
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information.

- 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 1.75% 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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$1,102.55
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 587.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,677.15
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



Parish Notices

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

5.00 pm — St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina
5.30 pm — Holy Family Church, Lennox Head
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.

READERS AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ARE REQUIRED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Please place your name on the board at the back of the Church if you are able to assist. *Thank you.*

'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.



WORLD MISSION MONTH APPEAL THANK YOU



A 'BIG THANK' you to all who prayerfully and financially supported the 2022 World Mission Month Appeal.

Your compassion, generosity and missionary heart will vastly improve the lives of families in Emdibir, Ethiopia through resourcing the Deberety Goat Rearing Centre and providing nutritious milk for the local community.

God bless you.

Loana Wallace, Catholic Mission, Diocese of Lismore.



ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

Australia's Bishops are encouraging Catholics to respond to the call from the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia to provide financial support to people in the war-torn nation as winter arrives. Donations will be received by cash in envelope or direct bank transfer to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522

A/c No 50960 3218 marked 'Ukraine Appeal'.

All donations raised will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchial Charitable Foundation in Ukraine.

The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.

Christian Mediation Saturday 9.00 am will continue

Parish Youth Group is in recess

Marian Cenacle is in recess

Ballina CCR is in recess until 30th January, 2023

Sisterhood is in recess

Prayer of the Church & Rosary is in recess

Rosary at Holy Family Church 8.00 am Wednesday

**OUR PARISH IS IN URGENT NEED OF
CATECHISTS FOR 2023 ~ Please consider.**
**An invitation to reflect upon if you are able help in this
rewarding mission.** Please contact the Parish Office 6681.

ADVENT WREATH Lighting 4th Candle



PRIEST: Lord Jesus, you came into the world, sent by the Father to be life to all people

PEOPLE: COME, DWELL WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus, born to be our unending example of love

PEOPLE: COME, DWELL WITH US

PRIEST: Lord Jesus heavenly Child and heavenly Gift

PEOPLE: COME, DWELL WITH US

BALLINA COMMUNITY FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER



12.00 noon—2.00 pm, Sunday
 25th December at St Mary's Anglican Church,
 Cnr Norton and Burnett Street, Ballina.

Ham, Chicken, Salads and dessert will be served.

All enquiries to Chris on 0431 630 900

This is an alcohol free event.

Don't be alone on Christmas Day.

ALL WELCOME



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 Trees' in the Churches of St Francis Xavier and Holy Family.

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**

19th DECEMBER, 2022 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**

JOSEPHITE 2023 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. \$10.00 each.

Perfect last minute Christmas gift.

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will close from Friday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. If you are in need of a priest please call 0423 445 639.

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,

who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was pro-

claimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mt 1:18-24***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-

us'. When Joseph woke up he did

what the angel of the Lord had told

him to do: he took his wife to his

home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER****TUESDAY 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.

WEDNESDAY 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: Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord.

THURSDAY ~ 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.

FRIDAY ~ 23rd DECEMBER

Entrance Antiphon: A child shall be born for us, and he will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in him.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.



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.