

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



**St Francis Xavier Church,  
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,  
Ballina**

welcome

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

**4th Sunday of Advent  
Year B**

**20th December, 2020**



**Parish Weekend Mass Times  
St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina (200 people)**

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm  
Sunday — 9.00 am  
Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head (75 people)**

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm  
Sunday—7.30 am**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT  
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND a  
weekend Mass by phoning  
6681 1048**

**by Friday at 12.00 noon or use  
the QR codes located on the  
doors of both Churches**

**WEEKDAY MASS:**

**At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY**

**Please register with Parish Office  
or use the QR codes on the doors  
of the Church**

**RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church**

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**Feast**

**St Stephen  
Saturday**

## The waiting is almost over

Almost 60 years ago the world was shaken by the civil rights movements in America. Martin Luther King and others launched a massive direct-action campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. He was arrested for defying a state law that forbade mass public demonstrations. In prison, King penned, on the margins of the local newspaper, his 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'.

In this letter, Martin Luther King articulated principles for achieving liberation for his people. He spoke of his impatience, "For years now, I have heard the word 'Wait'! This 'wait' has always meant 'never'. When you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness', then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

He went on to say that human progress "comes through the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God and, without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation". Today we reflect on the story of the Annunciation. It is a story of liberation. God is intervening in human history. Via the angel Gabriel, God announces to a tired-of-waiting world that he will not abandon humanity to endless futility and is sending the long-awaited messiah. God's design for the world requires human co-operation. It is given by Mary. She is told that she is to be the mother of the saviour. The news comes out of left field. There was an expectation that the messiah would be a

person of significant importance. Mary is merely a lowly village girl. The news astonishes and troubles her. "How can this be?" she asks.

Gabriel reassures, "Do not be afraid". This work will be accomplished in and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Divinely reassured, Mary consents. The Word becomes flesh. The long wait for liberation is over. Advent is a time of waiting

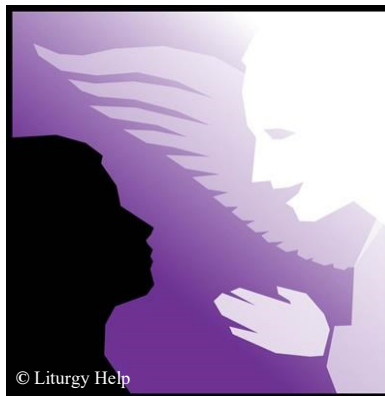
but it is coming to an end. We can be so swept up in the rush as to forget that the primary reason for celebrating Christmas is to welcome Christ into our lives.

Perhaps we might take a 'Mary moment' to be surprised that God chooses each of us, through our baptism, to be a Christ-bearer in our families, our workplaces, our world. We will feel inadequate

and unworthy; but nothing is impossible with God. If God can call a young girl from an insignificant town and betrothed to a carpenter to bring the saviour into the world, God can do the same for you and me.

Today is a day to answer that call; to listen to angelic reassurances that we are not to be afraid; that we have the support and encouragement of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Today is a day to renew our personal 'yes' to God's call to be a willing co-worker with God to bring peace and liberation for all. Our world is waiting for our response.

Michael Gilbert CSsR  
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© Liturgy Help

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

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

**PRESBYTERY:** Phone: 6686 2042  
**AFTER HOURS MOBILE:** 0423 445 639

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

**SCHOOLS:**

**AGED CARE:**

**Administrator of Ballina Parish:** Father Peter Padsungay

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke

**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

**Parish Youth Group Coordinator:** Amelia Kearney

**Email:** parishcouncil@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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Podgorczyk, Margaret Pyne, Greg Sutherland, Aileen Griffin, Father John Fitz-Walter,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** John O'Mara, Jack Waller, Beatrice Flood, Jack & Marie Flood, Irene Kearney, Kitty Tyler, William (*Podge*) Holwell, Camillia McCoy

**AND ALSO FOR:** *Glorie Kelly, Fay Kerslake, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** Meg O'Mara, Greg Shore, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans (*infant*), Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Pauline McLachlan, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Darryl Simpkins, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life*

### 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. Please observe the 2 square metre social distancing while in our Churches. Contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: TBA CONFIRMATION: TBA RECONCILIATION: 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.

### GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Ensure you register prior to attending any Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
  - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
    - QR check-in is also available
    - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
  - **Sit on crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules of 2 square metres (*families can sit together*).
- **Singing** within the body of our Churches is prohibited by NSW Health authorities and endorsed by our Bishop.
  - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
- Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
  - You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.



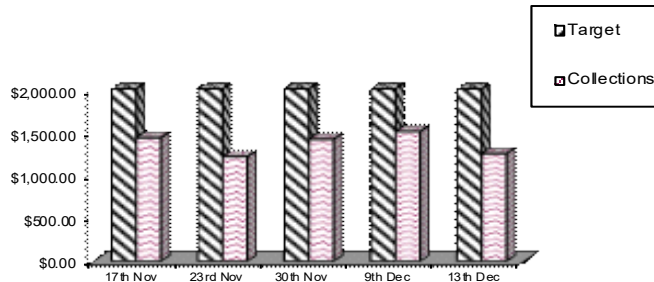
Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 498.25
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 222.70
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,249.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



**DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM from 1st December, 2020**

**BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker** 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099

**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.

# Parish Notices

**PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.**

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

5.30 pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

6.00 pm – Family Mass

Xavier Catholic College, Magis Hall,  
2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

7.30 pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

8.00 pm – Holy Family Church, Lennox Head

### 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.

Registrations are now being taken – phone the Parish Administration Office on 6681 1048 or email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:admin@sfxballina.org.au) for your preferred Mass.

## THURSDAY 12.00 NOON MASS THIS WEEK

Please note there will **NOT** be a 12.00 noon Mass this Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve).

## REGISTERING FOR MASS OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD:

If you have not registered for weekend Masses of 26th/27th December or 2nd/3rd January please add your name and contact details to the sheets at the doors of both Churches. This also applies for weekday Masses for 29th through to New Year's Day Friday 1st January 2021. The Administration Office will be closed and will return to normal from Monday 4th January. Thank you for your cooperation.



## 'CONGRATULATIONS'

*Helen and Ian Lockton*

On Tuesday 8th December Helen and Ian received a Papal Blessing for their 40 years of dedicated service to St Vincent de Paul Society and for their other charitable works to the marginalised people living in the Diocese of Lismore.

*Love and prayers from your parish community.*



**SINCERE SYMPATHY:** Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of

**Peter Podgorczyk** who has passed away.

Peter funeral was held in Altonville on Friday.

## CATECHISTS MATTER

**Parish Volunteers NEEDED for 2021**

An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.



*Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.*

Contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Pauline Shay Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0405 448 592.

## 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**



## BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org), or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code: **Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am**



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Yasmin Mary Dogan** daughter of Ali and Anne.



## 'CONGRATULATIONS'

**2020 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.

## JOSEPHITE 2021 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. The price is still \$6.00 each and they do make a wonderful Christmas gift.



## 2021 COLUMBIAN CALENDARS

Available from the back of St Francis Xavier Church following the 9.00 am Sunday Mass. \$8.00 each.

**Parish Administration Office:** Will close Thursday 24th December and re-open Monday 4th January.

*If you need a priest during this time please call the after hours mobile phone 0423 445 639*

**Christian Meditation Group:** will not meet on Saturday 26th December, will resume 2nd January, 2021.

*You are welcome to join.*

**Cenacle Marian Movement of Priests:** Is in recess.

**Ballina CCR** is in recess. Recommence 11th January.

**Prayer of the Church and Rosary** will resume

Saturday 6th February.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will resume Friday 8th January.

**Parish Youth Group:** is now in recess

## 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 IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED.**

**First Reading: 2Samuel 7:1-5,8-12;14,16;**

*A reading from the second book of Samuel*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever'.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27;**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Lk 1:26-38**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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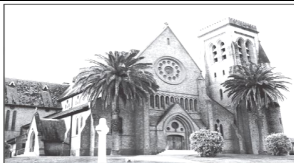
**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

[melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)

**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 account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



**Invest** with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516



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