

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



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

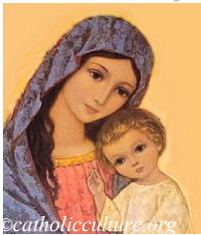
welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.

4th Sunday of Easter
(A)

3rd May, 2020

Alleluia



The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady,"

FROM FATHER PETER
AND
FATHER ANSELM

Parishioners please be assured of our prayers as we comply with the government's restrictions with social distancing.

Every day in our private Masses we pray that the parish community will be safe from the COVID-19 virus, and that our way of life and the freedom to attend our Parish Masses will resume in the near future.

God Bless and keep each of you
Father Peter
Father Anselm

Are we open to hearing Jesus?

What is it to listen, to actually hear what's being said, let alone hear the voice of Jesus? As today's gospel makes clear, this is what identifies us. In John's Gospel, we hear the story of the man born blind and while others can't hear what Jesus is on about, having been healed by him, this man is alive to the presence of Jesus. What he hears is someone who is of God, who he subsequently worships.

Today we hear the first part of chapter 10 where Jesus speaks of himself as the good shepherd – not directly just yet – as a way of speaking about our relationship with him. So today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. He calls us by name and we respond to his voice. The shepherd protects the sheepfold from brigands and robbers and leads the sheep out to pasture. Jesus explains, "I am the gate" through which those who hear his voice can enter safely at night, going 'freely in and out.'" Later in the chapter the good shepherd is said to lay down his life for his sheep.

As the psalm reminds us, the image of shepherd and sheep is deeply rooted in the Hebrew scriptures and in using it Jesus embodies the promise held out by scripture, even though many who are listening, 'fail to understand what he meant.'

Good Shepherd Sunday is Vocations Sunday

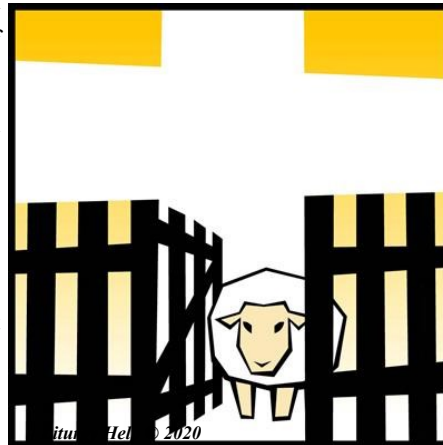
and the question is asked again more pointedly: can we hear his voice calling us to care for one another? This isn't a sentimental thing as Pope Francis reminded us when he urged priests to be 'shepherds living with the smell of the sheep' – to be that close to one another.

Resurrection is the game changer: his death enables us to become him, his body, so that we're able to belong to one another, to hear one another. To take one dramatic instance of this dynamic. In El Salvador, in 1980,

Jean Donovan was a lay missionary who was caught up in the violence that beset the country. She said: "Several times I have decided to leave. I almost could except for the children, the poor bruised victims of adult lunacy. Who could care for them? Whose heart would be so staunch as to favour the reasonable thing in a sea of tears and helplessness. Not mine, dear friend, not mine."

A month later she was murdered. She heard the voice of Jesus and she laid down her life for the children. What prevents us from hearing Jesus? And are we a Church that reveals the reality of Jesus Christ risen from the dead, so that, 'they may have life and have it to the full'? It's the promise of Easter.

Damian Colereidge
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**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are from
20th March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass
obligation until further notice.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 204

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

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: Sr Martha Casserley pbvm, Barry Schneider, Robert Hosie Snr,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Bishop John Carroll (*2nd Bishop of Lismore*)
Aileen Beazley,

AND ALSO FOR: *Armando Bordin, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: Gloria Greguric, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunt*) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (*2 yrs*), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, Greg Shore, 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, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (*Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks*)

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

I have a friend who is a great lover of classical music. His knowledge of it is vast. He only needs to hear a few bars of most musical works and he confidently declares, 'Mozart's Piano Concerto in A' or 'Stravinsky's Rite of Spring'. He's always right.

Another of his superfluous, but amusing gifts is to pick the singer. He can hear a soprano and declare it to be Callas, Te Kanawa or Sutherland. He knows which of the three Tenors is belting out that particular top C. Again, he's almost always right. What intrigues me about this gift is that he remembers the timbres of each voice, not just the famous ones, but some rather obscure soloists as well. It helps that he has listened to the sound of these voices for years. It's the same with recognising the voice of Christ – it comes with practice and exposure to it.

In our world there are a multitude of voices clamouring for attention. The loudest or the longest voices we hear are not always the wisest ones. Jesus invites us to attune our listening to the sound of his voice so that even if it is faintly heard amidst the noise, we can lift our heads, turn our gaze and walk towards it.

More than ever, there are some voices which entice us away from the Gospel. We are told that it is impossible to be happy unless we are wealthy. Impossible to be fulfilled unless we are sexually active with several partners. Impossible to be free unless we answer to no one.

And in this crowded marketplace the voice of Jesus keeps saying the same thing it's been saying for two thousand years. Happiness is found in sharing what we can with the poor, in being faithful and loving in all our relationships and in surrendering our freedom to the service of His kingdom of justice and peace.

The problem is not that Jesus should yell more loudly, it is that at crucial moments in our lives when we have to make important decisions, we close our ears. We refuse to listen to any other voice except that one that reinforces the destructive decision we want to make. Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel that this choice can be a moment of death. What his call offers is life and life abundantly. But at various times we blot it out and tune our hearing elsewhere.

There are, however, at least two times in our lives when we respond immediately to the sound of a loving voice: as a baby and in old age. A parent's voice soothes and reassures a baby like no other. Look at how a screaming child calms down as a mother nurses it. Look at how a loved one's voice comforts and gives confidence to an older person when they are distressed or disoriented.

What wonderful images these very human moments provide in terms of hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd. At the moment of our death, in the midst of all the other sounds we hear as we leave this world we will hear Christ's voice – soothing, reassuring, comforting and confident. And at that moment we will do what we have tried to do always all our lives – we will walk straight toward it.

Now that will be life, and life abundantly.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.
<https://liturgyhelp.com>

DIF PAYS 1.10% 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

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

REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Father Peter and Father Anselm are thinking and praying for all during this difficult time of social distancing and at times disconnectedness. The parish office is open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm or phone 6681 1048.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioners with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.

- **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 *reference 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, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month. 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 (1st collection).

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



PROJECT COMPASSION

Don't forget to return your envelopes. They can be returned to Parish Admin during office hours Thank you.

QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS

- “Love is the greatest power for the transformation of reality because it pulls down the walls of selfishness and fills the ditches that keep us apart.”
- “The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil.”

www.franciscanmedia.org/



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, or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



ing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:

**Time of Live Streaming:
Sunday ~ 8.00 am**

MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

CATH NEWS

www.cathnews.com

Google Catholic Masses and click your choice

AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV

Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ Mass 6.00 am

Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

by Pope Francis <https://corkandross.org>

O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, health of the sick, who at the cross were near to the pain of Jesus, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us,

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen

*We seek refuge under your protection,
O Holy Mother of God.*

*do not despise our plea— we who are put to the test —
and deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.*



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EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all 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 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

First Reading: Acts 2:14,36-41;

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R) 'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.'

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25;

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Due to Covid-19 Good Shepherd Sunday will not be promoted this year.



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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



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.