

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 in
Lent (A)

22nd March, 2020



**NO Parish Weekend
Masses**

**(This includes Saturday Vigil
and Sunday morning.)**

**This week's daily
Parish Mass times**

Monday ~ 8.00 am

Tuesday ~ 5.20 pm

Wednesday ~ 10.00 am

Thursday ~ 8.00 am

Lennox Head

Friday ~ 12.00 noon

Reconciliation

Saturday 9.00 to 10.00 am
also on request

**Rosary, Prayer of the Church
Saturday 9.00 am**

Adoration

Friday 11.00 to 11.45 am

Feast Day

**The Annunciation of the Lord
Wednesday**



Christ lights our way

A man has been blind from birth. He lives in 'darkness'. People, including Jesus' disciples, look at him as a sinner punished by God, wondering whether he or his parents are to blame for his blindness. Yet neither he nor his parents are responsible. His destiny is marked from the beginning.

All this changes when he meets Jesus who announces: "*As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.*" Jesus sees the man's situation in a completely different 'light'. His focus is to rescue this poor, despondent and labelled man from a life of 'darkness'.

Jesus' light penetrates the man's blindness. He then sees and discovers light for the first time and can enjoy his proper human dignity. However, it's not only his physical sight which is restored. He now sees beyond the miraculous sign to discover the deeper meaning of Jesus' life and mission.

Following the healing, there's confusion and the man's under pressure. The religious

leaders feel obligated to control the purity of their religion. Only they will decide if the man is to be received into the religious community and admitted to the Temple.

But they are unable to accept what they have seen with their own eyes. They raise questions about whether the healing is authentic. Perhaps the man hadn't been blind from birth? How can someone like Jesus who

doesn't keep the Sabbath do something like this? The newly-sighted, newly 'enlightened' man stands firm. He can't explain what happened, but knows it did and that it's somehow come from God; from someone who is a prophet walking among God's people.

Sadly, he's subjected to abuse and put-down by the religious leaders. What do you know about such things? How can someone like you ("*a sinner through and through*") teach us (the righteous) the truth of what has happened? Abuse turns to eviction and they drive him away. Not only do they refuse to see, but they also refuse to hear.

For us, this story invites a faith response. In baptism, we were given a lighted candle as a sign that we want God to enlighten our minds and hearts to what is true. This means living not only with physical sight but also spiritual sight.

We are encouraged to develop the confidence of the newly-sighted man who knows what

he has seen and is prepared to speak of it, even when it means rejection by his community and even his family. The light of Christ has come into our lives and as long as we are in the world, we are to be the light of Christ, especially where there is darkness.

David J Hore CSsR
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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 Marie June Akers, pbvm., Martin Boland, Stephen Hill, Cecilio Natural,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Carolina Bordin, Monica Dwyer, Margaret Clissold, Kerry Ruge, Boris Jarzynski, Elene Verdeflor

AND ALSO FOR: *Philippe Picquet, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: *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, Dymphna 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*

Small Kindnesses: I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat."

—Danusha Laméris Copyright © 2020 Benetvision, All rights reserved.

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held at any time in either Church on any day. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: TBA

CONFIRMATION: 28th May, 2020. Parent Meeting: 1st April

RECONCILIATION: 2nd September, 2020. Parent Meeting: Wednesday 29th July.

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: Given the difficulty we have in obtaining names of those in hospital, a visit is made to **those who tell us** they are in the hospital. We will only know someone is in the hospital if we are told by family or friends. This is due to the Privacy laws that govern our nation.

PRAYER AGAINST COVID-19

God our Father,
We come to you in our need
To ask your protection against the 2019 N-Corona Virus,
That has claimed lives
And has affected many.
We pray for your grace
For the people tasked with studying the nature and cause
Of this virus and its disease
And of stemming the tide of its transmission.
Guide the hands and minds of medical experts
That they may minister to the sick
With competence and compassion,
And of those governments and private agencies
That must find cure and solution to this epidemic.
We pray for those afflicted
May they be restored to health soon.
Grant us the grace
To work for the good of all
And to help those in need.
Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.
Mary Help of all Christians, pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines



SINCERE SYMPATHY

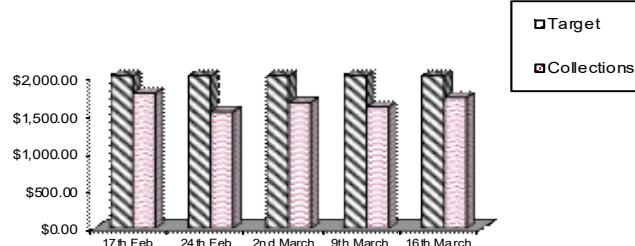
Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Stephen Hill** who has passed away. A private cremation has taken place.

DIF PAYS 1.40% 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	\$ 1,081.40
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 564.70
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,718.00
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 in the foyer of the Church. Please complete your details and place on the collection plate in the envelope provided, or 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

BAPTISM: This week the parish warmly welcomes **Indie Jane Oud** daughter of Ryan and Sarah. We look forward to seeing the newly baptised and her family worshipping with us each weekend.



PERSONAL HYGINE IN OUR PARISH CHURCH
Please have your own hand sanitiser for use before entering and on leaving the church. Cough/sneeze into your elbow when necessary and **REFRAIN FROM WEEKDAY MASS IF UNWELL.**

'CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY BLESSINGS' to Amanda Egan & Murray Deeps on their Marriage at Holy Family Church, Lennox Head this weekend.



Love and prayers to you both from all the Parish.

LENTEN TALKS ~ BISHOP GREG
are now cancelled.
Recorded talks are available on YouTube

2020/2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION

Due to a change in the procedure of completing the program, parents for 2020 Confirmation are advised that they do not have to gather for a Parent Meeting on 1st April, you will be advised in due course, by email of the new arrangement.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
WEDNESDAY 28th MAY
AT 5.20 PM

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE—DECREES REGARDING MASS CLOSURES

As you all know, the Commonwealth Government has now banned all indoor gatherings of 100 or more people. As a consequence, I am obliged to make the following Decrees:

- **SUNDAY MASS** — From and including this weekend there will be NO Sunday Masses in the Diocese and the Sunday obligation for our Faithful is suspended;
- **CONFIRMATION, FIRST COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION**—will be postponed until further notice;
- **RECONCILIATION** — There will be no Second Rite of Reconciliation until further notice; you may, however use the First Rite but must ensure there is the appropriate distance and if possible, there be a screen between the priest and the penitent;
- **FUNERALS**—Since we have no control over the number attending funerals, there will be no funeral liturgies in church. Prayers may be said at the place of burial;
- **WEDDINGS**—You should ensure that no more than 100 people, including yourself, attend at weddings. In the present circumstances, I would encourage wedding services in preference to as Nuptial Mass;
- **EASTER**—There will be no public Easter Liturgies;
- **CHURCHES** may remain open for the Faithful to come and pray.

Let us continue to pray for the protection of all people and the end of this virus.



Plenary Council 2020 Delegates

Recently the selection committee met to discern our Lismore diocesan lay delegates for the

Plenary Council 2020. We thank the many parishioners who expressed an interest in attending the Plenary Council. The Diocese submitted the names of four highly suitable candidates to the ACBC Plenary Council Committee and two candidates were selected by them from that list. The Diocese is pleased to announce that **Dr Deirdre Little, parishioner of St Mary's Parish Bellingen and Miss Ellen Hales of St Francis Xavier Parish Ballina** have been discerned as the Lismore delegates for the Plenary Council. Please keep our delegates and all those who are working toward the Plenary Council 2020 in your prayers.



PROJECT COMPASSION— Week 4 India

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

CROWLEY CHAPEL will not have Mass on Wednesday until further notice 10.00 am Mass in SFX Church.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP will not meet until further notice.

CROWLEY AUXILIARY will not have monthly meetings until further notice.

MONTHLY COFFEE CRAWL will not continue until further notice.

ALL MONTHLY PARISH 'CUPPAS' following Sunday Mass will not be held until further notice.

First Reading: 1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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: Eph 5:8-14*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illu-

minated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

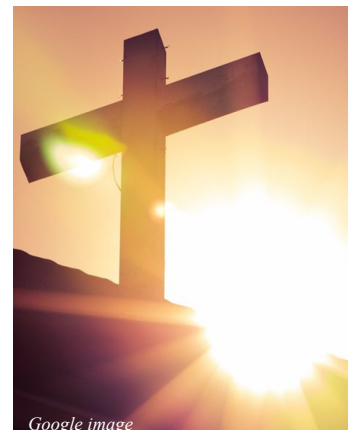
His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Google image***Christian Meditation Group:** is held every Saturday at 9.30 am in Anawim Room.**Ballina CCR Intercession Mondays** from 10.45 to 11.45 am in the Anawim Room. **Prayer Meeting:** Mondays 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room**Centacle Marian Movement of Priests:** Monday 11.00- 12.15 at 3/21 Swift St, Ballina. Details Admin Office**Sisterhood:** Monday 10.00 am Mother Teresa Room, Parish Admin Centre.**Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** is held every Wednesday 8.00 am Holy Family Church, Lennox Head**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Friday mornings from 11.00 to 11.45 am at SFX Church Ballina (except when there is a funeral that day). **All Welcome!****Invest** with peace of mindwww.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 CDIF 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.