

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 in Lent
(A)

19th March, 2023



'WELCOME'

Weekend Mass Times
Ballina

St Francis Xavier Church
Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm
Sunday — 9.00 am
Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head
Holy Family Church

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm
Sunday—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

Feast Days

St Joseph
Monday

The Annunciation of the Lord
Saturday

Having faith in the dark times

At the end of his gospel, Saint John reminds us that he has had to be selective in what he's told us, and that what he has recorded is there so that we might "believe that Jesus is the Christ", and that by believing, we might have life through his name.

The story that John uses of the healing of a blind man is described in much more graphic detail than any accounts of similar cures in the gospels and is a perfect illustration of how John is seeking to ensure that we get the message in all its depth and complexity. The context is his recurring theme of Jesus as the light of the world. Blind people are in the dark and there are many people in this story who are in the dark.

To begin with, the disciples themselves are still burdened with the old notion that our infirmities must be the consequence of sin, either the blind man's sins or those of his parents. Jesus dispels this idea immediately and invites us to open our eyes to a much bigger picture in which we will see "the works of God" displayed. But Jesus is confronted with obstinacy on the part of the religious authorities and fear on the part of the man's parents. Accordingly, each of them is rendered blind, unable to see the truth before their very eyes.

One of the fascinating aspects of this story is that Jesus does not demand an act of faith

from the man before he cures him; he simply asks him to co-operate by washing the paste from his eyes. Now this man becomes the vehicle through whom John will teach us in whom we should put our faith. After all the interrogations and investigations are over, Jesus seeks the man out and asks him if he believes in "the Son of Man"?

Assured by the Lord that he can now see him, the blind man has no hesitation in saying: "Lord, I believe," and then worships him. Later in the gospel, we see a comparable call to faith when Jesus confronts Martha after the death of her brother, Lazarus. "I am the resurrection ... Do you believe this?"

She replies: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

The blind, like many others, were the outcasts at that time. Jesus had come to reach out to them and fulfil the message of the prophets: the outcasts would be cured and welcomed into the community at the expense of those who wielded power for their own ends. There are still many outcasts in our world today and it is the mission of the disciples of Jesus to speak out against the injustices that keep them imprisoned and to set them free so they can give glory to God.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR
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From today's Gospel: Do you believe that God causes or permits suffering? Or do you think that we cause some of our own suffering? Does society ever cause some suffering? How? What can you as an individual do to alleviate large-scale suffering? What role should the Christian community play to alleviate suffering? Individual suffering? Corporate and global suffering? What part do prayer and Scripture play in dealing with suffering? Does sharing your hurts and concerns with others help lessen your pain? How do you react when others share their hurts and suffering with you? Do you know where you can refer suffering people to when they need more help than you can offer?

Consider your own blindness this week. How can you open your eyes to see Jesus in those who suffer? What can you do to help someone who needs your concern and care?

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

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

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

ROSTER: 5th Sunday of Lent Year A: 25th/26th March, 2023 Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38			
	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	John Jarzynski Jeanette Wilkins	Nicole Sullivan Margaret Tay	Warwick Manning Maxine Cole
EMHC	Pauline Fingleton	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Helen Cooney
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Paul Milgate Murray Deeps	Jean MacKay	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Stuart Ward (*Port Macquarie*), Michael Curgenvin, Shirley O'Brien, Deirdre Hourigan (*Sydney*),
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Elne Verdeflor, Boleslaw Jarzynski, Alan (*Ace*) Ayton, Rose Mulgrew (*Ireland*), Maureen Sullivan, Yvonne Tagget, Monica Dwyer, Margaret Clissold, Kerry Ruge
AND ALSO FOR: 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: Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*) Tanya White, Kathryn Nomchong, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson 1 yr (*Brisbane*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dympna 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,*

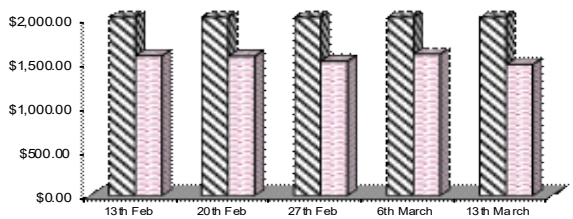
UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023		
21st March	Tuesday 10.00 am <i>every Tuesday from here on</i>	'Cherry Coffee Club'
23rd March	Thursday 10.00 to 11.00 am 5.30 to 6.30 pm	'Presence' The Mystery of the Eucharist
24th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
27th March	Monday 3.00pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
30th March	Thursday 5.30 pm	Confirmation
1st April Saturday	Parish Preparation for Holy Week 9.00 am	*Mass/Lauds *Reconciliation *Reflection
2nd April	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
<i>Parents - in the interest of safety, please always accompany your children to the church toilet.</i>		

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 Presbyterian collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

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 3.20% 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>	\$ 937.30	
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 548.80	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,471.50	
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00	

Parish Notices

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



BAPTISM: Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Archer David Wild** son of Daniel and Lauren; and **Willow Mae Ngaire Ethier** daughter of Felix and Kiri.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM

The first Crowley Auxiliary meeting for 2023 will be held on **Monday 27th March at 3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street. Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome!**

PARISH ANOINTING MASS FRIDAY 31ST MARCH ~ 12.00 NOON



SATURDAY 1st APRIL 2023 PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION

To prepare for Holy Week and Easter ~ **9.00 am**
St Francis Xavier Church
Mass/Lauds, Reconciliation,
Reflection, Adoration, Benediction.
Morning Tea will be provided
All welcome.



PROJECT COMPASSION Fourth Sunday of Lent 18th and 19th March



Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke. **Please donate to Project Compassion**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



'WELCOME' 2023 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.



This week the focus for our parish candidates for Confirmation is:

'Called by Name'. Children will hold their battery lit candles standing near the Pascal candle and together we pray the following prayer:

All: 'These children have received the light of Christ. Loving Father,

We thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be the light of the world, and to show us the way to you. Thank you for the day we were baptised.

May Jesus always live in our hearts, in the hearts of these children. May Jesus be light and love for us all.' Amen.

We welcome each candidate and their family to our weekend Masses.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Thursday 30th March in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.

Candidates and their families will gather at 5.20pm to be seated by 5.30 pm to meet Bishop Greg before the Sacrament of Confirmation at 6.00 pm.



APPLICATIONS FOR A CLEANER

ST ANNE'S LONG DAY CARE CENTRE is seeking a Contract Cleaner to commence Monday **22nd May 2023**, cleaning the Children's Centre at the end of each day Monday to Friday.

Please contact Centre Director on 66875961 for further details.



LENNOX HEAD COMMITTEE

The last dinner for parishioners before the recess 'A little gem by the sea' of the 5:00 p.m Vigil Mass will be on Saturday 25th March.

Two tables are booked. Come and relax.

The next meeting will be this **Friday 24th March** in the Sacred Heart Room at 9:30 a.m. Father Anselm will be joining us. You are welcome to come and provide input at the meeting.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH ~ LENNOX HEAD 5.00 PM VIGIL MASS : Saturday 1st April will be the final Vigil Mass celebrated in Holy Family Church.

'Thank you' parishioners for supporting this Mass which commenced to enable attendance at Sunday Mass, during Covid restrictions.

READERS ROSTER : PALM SUNDAY, TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2023

	Palm Sunday 6.00 pm Vigil	Palm Sunday 9.00 am	Holy Thursday 6.00 pm	Good Friday 3.00 pm	Holy Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil	Easter Sunday 9.00 am
Readers	Yvonne Head Pauline Fingleton	Gemma Duffy Wendy Hughes	Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan	Nicole Sullivan Gemma Duffy	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Nicole Sullivan Richard Goss
	Passion Bryan Marriott <i>Narrator</i> John Jarzynski <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Passion Richard Goss <i>Narrator</i> Nicole Sullivan <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest		The Passion Warwick Manning <i>Narrator</i> Trish Bazar <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole <i>Epistle</i>	
EMOHC	Jeanette Wilkins	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Pauline Fingleton	Adam Sullivan	John Kearney Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell
Readers		11.00 am Maurice Gahan Passion Warwick Manning <i>Narrator</i> Leanne Robbins <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest				11.00 am Maxine Cole Leanne Robbins
EMOHC		Maxine Cole				Maurice Gahan

First Reading: 1Samuel 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: Ephesians 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 illuminated 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.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER****TUESDAY 21st MARCH**

Entrance Antiphon: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy

Communion Antiphon: 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.

WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: I pray to you, O Lord, for a time of your favour. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, with your salvation that never fails.

Communion Antiphon: God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

THURSDAY 23rd MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Communion Antiphon: I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, says the Lord.

FRIDAY 24th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Communion Antiphon: In Christ, we have redemption by his Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of his grace.

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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.