



ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH BALLINA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH
47 CHERRY STREET
BALLINA

WELCOME
Alléluia

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
94 BALLINA STREET
LENNOX HEAD

Respecting the traditional people of this land - past, present and future, the Bundjalung people

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

PARISH NOTICES

26TH APRIL 2026

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CHURCH BALLINA

SATURDAY VIGIL
- 5.30 PM

SUNDAY - 9.00 AM

SUNDAY - 11.00 AM

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
LENNOX HEAD

SUNDAY - 7.30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CHURCH

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
5.00 PM

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
12.00 NOON

ADORATION FRIDAY
EUCCHARIST28

11.00 AM TO 11.45 AM

RECONCILIATION
9.00 AM SATURDAY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Father Peter Padsungay

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Erick Quinteros

DEACON

Rev Assoc Professor
Anthony Gooley

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mr Brendon Clarke

PARISH BUSINESS
MANAGER

Mr Michael Penhey



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL

TODAY SUNDAY 26TH APRIL FOR THE FUTURE EDUCATION OF PRIESTS IN OUR DIOCESE. ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PEWS. THESE CAN BE PLACED ON THE COLLECTION PLATES OR RETURNED NEXT WEEKEND.

THE NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

The 6th National Count of Attendance at Mass will take place in May 2026. This year marks a significant milestone - 25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.

The Mass count will take place at all parish Masses over the weekends of :
2nd /3rd, 9th /10th, 16th / 17th, and 23rd /24th May.

PARISH 'CUPPA'

NEXT Sunday 3rd May following the 9.00 am and 11.00 am
Masses
in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church.
All are welcome.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY MEETING

MONDAY 27TH APRIL 3.00 PM in the

Education Centre at Crowley Care,
154 Cherry Street, Ballina.

Please consider attending as you will be assisting the
Aged Care Centre.

CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ANNUAL MOTHERS DAY LUNCH

THURSDAY 7TH MAY 11.30 AM - 3.00 PM

Crowley Activity Centre

\$55.00 pp

BYO - Tickets include 3 course meal, lucky door prize
and live entertainment.

RSVP Friday 1st May to Crowley Reception with cash or card payment and
dietary requirements.



UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2026

- Monday 27th April 10.30 am **NO** Cenacle (Public Holiday)
- Crowley Auxiliary Meeting Monday 27th April 3.00 pm
- Tuesday 28th April 10.00 am Cherry Coffee
- Devotion to the Holy Face Tuesday 28th April 10.00 am Holy Family Church
- Parish 'Cuppa' Sunday 3rd May following 9.00 am & 11.00 am Masses
- menALIVE Wednesday 6th May 8.00 am Rise Cafe Lennox Head
- Crowley Auxiliary Mothers Day Lunch Thursday 7th May 11.30 am
- Forum with Father Erick Friday 8th May 2.00 pm MTR Parish Admin
- Multi-Cultural Sunday - Pentecost 24th May 9.00 am Mass

5th Sunday of Easter Year A: 2nd/3rd May 2026
 Readings: Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

	5.30 pm Vigil Mass	7.30 am Mass LH	9:00 am Mass	11:00 am Mass
1 st Reader 2nd Reader	Yvonne Head Pauline Fingleton	Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps	Donna Sison Nicole Sullivan	Tony Hunter Warwick Manning
EMOHC	Mick Vella Phil Chapman	Sue Hetherington	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	John Jarzynski
Gifts			Ron Hughes Joan Hollingworth	
Announcer	Peter Bowen	Sue Hetherington	Margaret Tay	Maxine Cole
Laptop	Trish Bazar		Teresa Cunial	Maxine Cole

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Toni Murphy (*Yamba*),
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Marie Flood, Bishop John Satterthwaite, Kevin Nicholls, Fabian Okeke, Peter Solari, Hugo Long, Neville Butler, Tom Payne,
AND ALSO FOR: Danzil Seabrook, Grant McCoy, Philippe Picquet, Elna Verdeflor, Dympna Sheehy, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.
AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Ros Spiteri, Mele Taufaeava, Julia Paden, Samantha Anderson, Brian Dye, Andrea Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Caceres, Daniel Freeman, Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Schneider, Gloria Greguric, Annemarie Higgins, unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.
 (Please advise after six weeks if a name is to be removed or if good health has been restored.)

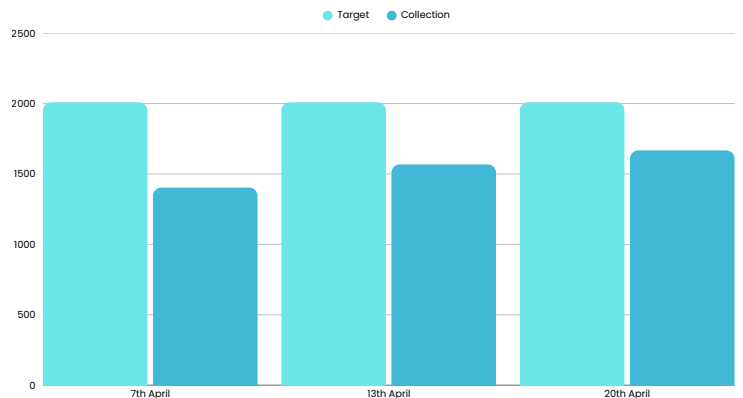


THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. Thank you also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. *Father Peter and Father Erick*

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS 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 use your Planned Giving number as reference.

DIF PAYS 3.65% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker 87-89 River Street Ballina 02 6686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry Street Ballina 1300 139 099 or online www.dif.org.au

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS		
1st Collection	Support clergy	\$1,183.75
2nd Collection Support of the Parish	Loose Plate	\$330.65
	Planned Giving	\$1,667.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



Diocesan Investment Fund

INTEREST RATE—3.65% FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND OUR CURRENT INTEREST RATE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.DIF.ORG.AU OR CONTACT US ON 1800 802 516

GENTLY GUIDING THE FLOCK

One of the most memorable moments in the Australian film Babe comes when the sheep explain that all border collies and kelpies are wolves. The dogs chase, nip, and intimidate. They move sheep by pressure and fear. Babe, however, learns another way. He listens. He speaks gently. And, astonishingly, the sheep follow him because they recognise that he means them no harm.

In this week's gospel, Jesus insists that "the sheep hear his voice" and follow him because they know it (John 10:3-4). This image does not sit comfortably with Australian experience. On a real property, sheep do not respond to the grazier's voice at all. The spoken commands are for the dog. "Come by!" "Away!" "Lie down!" The sheep move as the dogs circle them, cutting off any avenues of escape, applying constant force, until the mob are moved through the gate. It works; but it is leadership by proxy.

In John 10 there is no border collie, no intermediary barking commands or nipping heels on the shepherd's behalf. The relationship is direct. The sheep follow not because they are herded, but because they recognise who is calling them; and just as importantly, who is not. Strangers, thieves, and brigands do not get a hearing. The sheep run from those voices.

This distinction helps make sense of the other readings. In Acts, Peter's Pentecost sermon does not press its audience. Those listening are "cut to the heart" and ask, freely, "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their response – repentance, baptism, and entry into the community – flows from recognition rather than force. Likewise, the letter of 1 Peter describes people who had "gone astray like sheep" but have now returned to "the shepherd and guardian" of their souls (1 Pet 2:25). They are not driven back into line. They come back because they have learned where safety and life are found.

There is something quietly confronting here for contemporary Australians. We are rightly suspicious of authority exercised through fear, pressure, or manipulation. The gospel affirms that instinct. Jesus does not ask for blind obedience. Jesus calls for discernment and reason. Not every voice deserves our trust. Some voices do steal, kill, and destroy. Others promise freedom but operate like wolves in disguise.

Jesus, the good shepherd, does not "dog" our heels. He goes ahead of the flock rather than pushing from behind. He opens the gate rather than cornering the sheep. He leads the flock toward open pastures, not enclosed pens. And he promises not just survival, but life "to the full."

Perhaps the humour lies in recognising ourselves in Babe's sheep. We are not stupid, but we are vulnerable. We know pressure when we feel it, and we know when fear is being used to move us along. Easter's good news is that the risen Christ does not manage us like livestock. He calls us by name, invites trust, and teaches us to recognise His voice among all the others clamouring for attention.

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VOCATIONS VIEW

During April in Mass, we celebrate the expansion of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. The good news of Jesus risen transforms lives. Is God calling you to be a deacon or priest to transform lives?

Contact Vocations Lismore to consider your call.

vocations@lismore.catholic.org

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY

The Parish Office will be closed for the Anzac Day Public Holiday. If you are in urgent need of a priest please call 0423 445 639

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY ON SALE FOLLOWING EACH WEEKEND MASS. \$2.00 EA

PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS AND CELEBRATION SUNDAY 24TH MAY 9.00 AM ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH. TRADITIONAL DRESS AND FOOD FROM EVERY CULTURE IS A VERY WELCOME PART OF THIS WONDERFUL ANNUAL EVENT. TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS

TUESDAY 28th April

Entrance Antiphon: Perpetual light will shine on your Saints, O Lord, and life without end for ever, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit, alleluia.

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent, who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, alleluia.

THURSDAY 30th APRIL

Entrance Antiphon: O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

FRIDAY 1st MAY

Entrance Antiphon: You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office: Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please contact the Safeguarding Office 6621 9444 or email safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au. The April Newsletter is now available



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PRIEST AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES.

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 St 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.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Administration Centre: 53-57 Cherry Street Ballina Phn 02 6681 1048 P.O. Box 46 Ballina 2478
email: admin@sfxballina.org.au Office hours Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Parish website: www.sfxballina.org.au

SCHOOLS

St Francis Xavier Primary: Swift Street Ballina Phn 02 6686 3370 Principal: Mr Tony Hunter

Holy Family Primary: 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head Phn: 02 6687 5311 Principal: Mr Murray Deeps

Xavier Catholic College: 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head Phn: 02 6687 6484 Principal: Mr Michael Campbell

LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

St Anne's: Phn: 02 6687 596142 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head. Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst

AGED CARE

Crowley Care Services: 154 Cherry Street, Ballina Phn: 1300 139 099 CEO: Mr Michael Penhey