

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

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



**St Francis Xavier Church,  
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

*welcome*

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

### 4th Sunday of Advent (C)

**22nd December, 2024**



### Weekend Mass Times Ballina

**St Francis Xavier Church**  
**Saturday Vigil— 5.30 pm**  
**Sunday — 9.00 am**  
**Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Lennox Head**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**Sunday —7.30 am**

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**CHRISTMAS WEEK**  
**At St Francis Xavier Church**

**NO ADORATION**  
**ON FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK**

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

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*We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.*

### 'WELCOME' TO OUR PARISH THOSE VISITING OVER THIS FESTIVE SEASON

#### 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**



**BAPTISM :** Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Ronnie Bruce Lee** son of Jordan and Abbie; **Ozzy Maxwell Whiting** son of Ben and Emma.

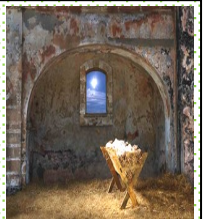
#### CHRISTMAS 2024 MASS TIMES

##### Christmas Eve Mass Time/s

- 5.30pm St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina** ~ Family Mass – Carols from 5.00 pm
- 7.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**

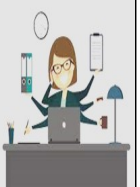
##### Christmas Day Mass Time/s

- 7.30am – Holy Family Church, **Lennox Head**
- 9.00am & 11.00 am – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**



**CHRISTMAS WEEK ~ DAILY MASSES ~ please note**  
**TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER –NO 12.00 NOON MASS**  
**THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER - NO 12.00 NOON MASS**  
**FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER—NO ADORATION OR 12.00 NOON MASS**  
**Weekday Masses will resume as normal from Tuesday 31st December.**

**HAPPY RETIREMENT, KATHY FINCH!** With deep gratitude, we bid a fond farewell to Kathy Finch as she retires after 10 years of faithful service as our parish receptionist. Kathy's warm smile, kindness, and dedication have been a blessing to everyone in our parish community. As she begins this new chapter, we pray that her retirement is filled with joy, relaxation, and countless blessings. Kathy, thank you for all that you have given to our parish—you will be dearly missed, but forever cherished. Enjoy your well-earned retirement!



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

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

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

**SCHOOLS:**

**AGED CARE:**

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

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke

**Deacon:** Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

**Pastoral Associate:** John Kearney Email: [john@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Kailani Tiernan Email: [ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; Email: [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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

**ROSTER: Christmas Masses, Year C: 24th/25th December, 2024**  
**Readings Vigil Mass: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25**  
**Readings Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18**

	<b>5.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil</b>	<b>7.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil</b>	<b>9.00 am Christmas Day</b>	<b>11.00 am Christmas Day</b>	<b>7.30 am Lennox Head Christmas Day</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Bryan Marriott John Jarzynski	Maxine Cole Trish Bazar	Bill Duffy Gemma Duffy.	Warwick Manning John Jarzynski	Angela Beglin Damien Kennedy
<b>E. Ministers Holy Communion</b>	Pauline Fingleton Mick Vella Phil Chapman	Peter Bowen Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole	.....
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			Greg, Kate & family	<i>Laptop Pauline Fingleton</i>	

<b>Holy Family Sunday, Year C: 28th/29th December, 2024</b> <b>Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; Psalm 83; John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52</b>				
	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>John Jarzynski Yvonne Head</i>	<i>Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Nicole Sullivan</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins Maxine Cole</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Pauline Fingleton Phil Chapman</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Julie McKinnon Denise Miller</i>	<i>Peter Bowen</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Amy Derrick &amp; Frank</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Alf Bugden,  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Ester Raicevich, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Shari McLeish, Armando Bordin, Betty Chandler,  
**AND ALSO FOR:** *Littorio Kenk, Alane Atangana-Etundi, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick 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:** Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kelly Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Beryl Reed, Daphne Sweeney (*mother of Sr Kathryn*), Vince Newman, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre (*Ireland*), Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Feve (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Syd*), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, , Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Kneightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Maree Doolan, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (*Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been*

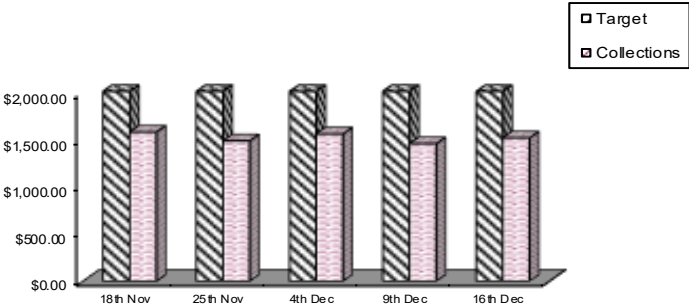
**THANK YOU to all Parishioners** for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father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

**DIF PAYS 4.15% PER ANNUM**  
**BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 -**

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 697.25
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 349.20
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,510.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00





## Bishop Greg's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

For a brief time, each year our thoughts turn from the business and worry of life to a newborn child in a manger. In the silence of Christmas night, we hear the secret hopes of our hearts and rekindle the trust and gaze of our childhood. The past is gone, if only we could fashion our future from the joy of Christmas. This is a season of hope in which we are called to believe in goodness, truth and beauty. Moreover, we are challenged to believe in ourselves and each other.

As we look at the crib we tend to identify with the baby. Curiously we do not associate with Mary or Joseph, and certainly not with the shepherds or the wise men. The baby Jesus carries our hopes, our fears and our future. He does not threaten us, we are not afraid of him. God comes into the world as a baby so that he can grow with us. We can also grow with God. Jesus shares each of our pains, difficulties and joys. In the baby, God and humankind are one. Jesus comes into the world to show us how to believe in ourselves and each other with confidence.

Take some time to pray. In prayer we are moved by Christmas. Suddenly joy becomes part of us, and we begin to see life with greater optimism and hope. This is the miracle of Christmas. May you be gifted with the spirit of Christmas.

With my prayers and wishes this Christmas and New Year.

*Bishop Greg Homeming OCD*



### Parish Notices (continued)



#### ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Do not forget to pick up your **FREE** copy the Christmas edition of the parish 'CONNECT' from our Churches or download from the Parish website .  
**CONNECT will be back in 2025.**

#### PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will close on Tuesday 24th December and re-open on  
Monday 6th January 2025 at 8.30 am.  
If you are in need of a priest over this time please  
call 0423 445 639

**URGENT: PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST**  
**LAPTOP OPERATORS REQUIRED FOR**  
**5.30 PM VIGIL MASS & 9.00 AM SUNDAY MASS**  
following Christmas, please contact the Parish Office.



#### 'CONGRATULATIONS' XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE YEAR 12 STUDENTS

on your outstanding HSC results.  
Excellent results were achieved across all courses.  
Wishing all our HSC students all the very best for the future.

#### CATECHISTS MATTER *Volunteers NEEDED for 2025*

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

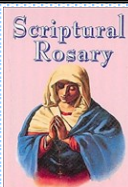
Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools? Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

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

#### PRAYING THE ROSARY

Ladies of our parish; following the successful and spiritual fulfilling Advent Reflection morning where the Scriptural Rosary was recited you are invited to come together on the first Tuesday of the month to pray together this Rosary.  
Afternoon tea follow.

Please call Pauline on 0438 435 566 for further information.



#### St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING**

which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our parish community.



**Christian Meditation Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048.

**Taizé:** In recess.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Recommence Friday 3rd January

**Prayer of the Church & Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church Ballina

**CCR:** In recess.

**Marian Cenacle:** In recess.

**Parish Youth Group:** In recess



**First Reading: Micah 5:1-4;**  
*A reading from the prophet Micah*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his  
power to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**  
*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays  
down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the  
oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you  
took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am  
coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to  
replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made  
holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by  
Jesus Christ.

*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: Luke 1:39-45**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the  
hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and  
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's  
greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled  
with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all  
women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of  
your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the  
mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached  
my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is  
she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord  
would be fulfilled

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**DID YOU KNOW:**

- In Luke's gospel, the conception and birth of Jesus are described in parallel with the conception and birth of John the Baptist. One important difference is that the announcement of the miraculous conception of John to elderly parents comes to his father Zechariah, while the announcement of the conception of Jesus comes to his mother, Mary.
- In Matthew's gospel, it is Joseph who is the main protagonist, while Luke concentrates on Mary's role in cooperating in God's plan for the world.
- Luke's gospel pays a great deal of attention to the role that women play in the story of salvation.
- Mary undertakes a journey from Nazareth in Galilee, in the north of Israel, to the hill country of Judah in the south. This is an extraordinary journey for a young pregnant woman of her time to undertake alone!

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

- Have you ever felt honoured by a visit from someone special? Is there a favourite relative that you visit on a regular basis? Do you have special memories associated with your mother or grandmother? Share your reflections with others.
- This week try to visit someone who is in need of some attention, especially as Christmas is almost upon us. Make the time to reach out to another.
- Mary's great song of rejoicing, which comes after today's gospel, makes a suitable prayer this week:

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.  
For he has looked upon my lowliness; behold, from now on, all ages will call me blessed.  
The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name*



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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.