



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 (A)

21st December, 2025



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

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

TUESDAY ONLY

12.00 noon Ballina

RECONCILIATION

9.00 am Saturday

St Francis Xavier Church

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We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

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

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 weekend :

Julia Evelyn and Maisie Amanda Harley
daughters of Michael and Nicole; and

Olive and Freddy Baz children of Alexander and Emma



FUNERAL NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Margaret Hosking Phippen** who has sadly passed away.

A Requiem Mass will be held **THIS Monday** 22nd December at 10.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church.



CHRISTMAS 2025 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Times

- **5.30 pm** – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**
from 5.10 pm Christmas Carols to 5.30 pm
- **7.30 pm** – St Francis Xavier Church, **Ballina**

Christmas Day Mass Times

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

CHRISTMAS WEEK ~ DAILY MASSES ~ please note
WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER — NO 12.00 NOON MASS
FRIDAY 26th DECEMBER - NO ADORATION OR 12.00 NOON MASS
Weekday Masses will resume as normal from Tuesday 30th December.

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

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 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 Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associates: email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

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

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Lee MacMaster - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

ROSTER: Christmas Masses, Year A: 24th/25th December, 2025
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

Volunteers needed for our Christmas Masses please	5.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil	7.30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil	9.00 am Christmas Day	11.00 am Christmas Day	7.30 am Lennox Head Christmas Day
Readers	Julie McKinnon Mick Vella	Trish Bazar	Tony Hunter Annette Reen	John Jarzynski	Marie Sullivan
E. Ministers Holy Communion	John Jarzynski Katrina Miles Phil Chapman	Maxine Cole Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole	<i>Deacon Anthony Mark McDonald</i>
Offertory Procession				

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year A: 27th/28th December 2025
Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 127; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2nd 13-15 19-23

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Trish Bazar John Jarzynski	Marie Sullivan Courtney Hyde	Julie McKinnon Tony Hunter	Warwick Manning Leanne Robbins
EMOHC	Mick Vella Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Maddy Pride	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			Joan Hetherington	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Daphne Sweeney (*mother of Sr Kathryn*), Adelaide King, Sgariboldi, Luigi, Gino Bordin, Mary Evans,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Ambrifi Gasbarrone Maria, Alf Bugden, Ester Raicevich, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Shari McLeish, Armando Bordin, Betty Chandler,

AND ALSO FOR: *Peter O'Connor, Maureen O'Connor, Alane Atangana-Etundi, Jack & Marie Flood, 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: Daniel Freeman, Luke Willett, Gloria Bordin, Veronica Bennett (*Gold Coast*), Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (*Sydney*), Paddy Mulgrew (*Northern Ireland*), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (*Brisbane*), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David LeFevre Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham,, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Samantha Anderson, Aunt

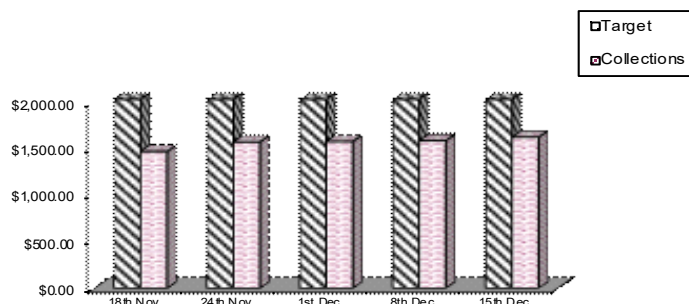
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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 3.40% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker
87-89 River St Ballina 026686 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>	\$ 1,291.00
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 374.20
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,598.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00





ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY
St Francis Xavier Conference
'JESSE TREE'/Christmas Appeal

It would be appreciated if the envelopes can be returned by **TODAY Sunday 21st December 2025**. Thank you for your kind generosity in sharing God's gifts and helping to make Christmas a little brighter for families and individuals doing it a little tougher this Christmas.

Oh! how happy the man of means who uses his wealth and his life for the greater glory of God, from whom he has received them!" ~ Vincent de Paul

Please do not return envelope to the tree with your donation enclosed.

Dear Parishioners,
Beginning Tuesday, 6th January 2026, the weekday Mass schedule at St Francis Xavier Church will be adjusted as follows:

Monday — No Mass
Tuesday & Wednesday—5.00 pm
Thursday & Friday — 12.00 noon

This change has been made to allow for Funerals, Aged Care Masses and visits, and Deanery Meetings for Clergy. We sincerely thank you for your kind support and understanding as we continue to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community

Blessings
Father Peter



LISMORE DIOCESE
'CATHOLIC LIFE' MAGAZINE

The latest edition of the **Catholic Life Magazine** is now available in our Churches. You are welcome to take a **FREE** copy home with you.

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

22nd December	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
23rd December	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee



'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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will close on Wednesday 24th December and re-open on Monday 5th January 2026 at 8.30 am.

If you are in need of a priest over this time please call 0423 445 639

PRAY FOR BONDI

We cry out to you, O God, in shock and grief in the wake of the violence at Bondi Beach. Hold in your eternal love the people who were killed. Surround their families and friends with compassion in the depths of their sorrow.

Hold in your care the survivors, the injured, and all who witnessed the attacks.

Guide the authorities responsible for investigating what happened, and how to prevent such devastation from ever happening again.

Have mercy on all who are afraid. Give courage. Have mercy on all who are in grief. Give comfort.

Have mercy on all who are in pain. Give healing.

Stir up Australians of all faiths and none to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbours.

Make us builders of a community where everyone has safety, and dignity, and peace. Amen.

EJS OSW 14.12.25 <https://cathedral.org.au/2025/12/15/pray-for-bondi/>



BISHOP GREG'S

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2025

December is always a month in which Jews and Christians rejoice in the Festival of Light. For Jewish communities, it is the feast of Hanukkah, and for us it is Christmas. As such, both communities greet each other with *Happy Hanukkah* or *Merry Christmas*. This year, it is different. On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the terrible Bondi Massacre occurred as Jewish people were celebrating the first day of Hanukkah. This was a heinous attack on the Jewish people in Australia.

I join with so many other religious and community leaders in rejecting what is happening in Australia. This is not the Australia that I was born in.

Christmas is a time in which we remember the love of God made manifest in a small baby born into poverty. I pray, that as we celebrate Christmas, this child may bring peace to anguished hearts and friendship between peoples. Let us not allow hatred and evil to overcome goodness and love.

In wishing you a *Merry Christmas*, I ask you to reach out to all in need and, in particular, to all who may be suffering as a consequence of the Bondi Massacre.

+ Greg

Most Revd Gregory Homering OCD
Bishop of Lismore



DON'T BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

Free Community Christmas Lunch
Christmas Day 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm
at St Mary's Anglican Church Hall,
Cnr Norton & Burnet Streets, Ballina.
Ham, Turkey, Salads and Dessert
This is an alcohol free event.

All are welcome.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CONNECT

ALL ARE WELCOME ALL BELONG

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT NEWSLETTER
The fifth edition of the parish 'CONNECT' is now available in our Churches and online. Don't miss out on your **FREE** copy of the final edition for 2025.

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY
on sale following this weekend Masses. \$2.00 ea



Diocesan
Investment
Fund

Interest Rate — 3.40% For further information and our current rate, Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14;*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach

the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

**FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS**

TUESDAY 23rd DECEMBER, 2025

Entrance Antiphon: A child shall be born for us, and he will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in him.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is the main protagonist in the infancy narrative, while Luke's story of the birth of Jesus centres on Mary and her response.
- There are significant differences between the two accounts, which can be understood as reflecting the particular theological perspective of each author and the way each seeks to point to the identity of Jesus and address the concerns of his own community.
- Did you notice that there is no stable or manger in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth? Jesus is born at the home of Joseph and Mary, who live in Bethlehem. Look at the birth stories in Luke (chapters 1–2) and in Matthew (chapters 1–2) and see who visits the infant Jesus.

Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office is available:

to listen to your concerns respectfully, offer support, and provide guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Phone (02) 6621 9444

email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



A copy of the December Safeguarding Newsletter is available from the Safeguarding information stand in the foyer of the Church.