



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 Easter
(C)
(Good Shepherd Sunday)**

Alleluia

11th May, 2025



*The Church honours
with special love
Mary, the Mother of
God, throughout the
month of May.*

**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 for this week

FRIDAY only

12.00 noon Ballina

ADORATION FRIDAY

11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION

9.00 am Saturday

St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Days

**Our Lady of Fatima
Tuesday**

**St Matthias, apostle
Wednesday**

**Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers ~
May you have a lovely day!**

We invite everyone to our faith community.

Habemus Papam! We have a Pope!

Dear parishioners, with great joy we announce: Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost of the Holy Roman Church has been elected pope and has taken the name **Leo XIV**. We pray for the new pope as he leads the whole flock towards Christ.



*Lord, source of eternal life and truth,
give to your shepherd a spirit
of courage and right judgment, a spirit
of knowledge and love. By governing
with fidelity those entrusted to his care,
may he, as successor to the Apostle
Peter and vicar of Christ, build your
Church into a sacrament of unity, love,
and peace for all the world.
Amen.*

Pope Leo XIV's first words to the world: 'Peace be with you all'

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL TODAY

Sunday 11th May for the future education of priests in our Diocese. Envelopes are available on the seats of the churches. These can be placed on the collection plates at any of the Masses or returned to the Parish Office the following weekend.

CLERGY RETREAT

There will be NO midday Masses this week until Friday 16th May, due to Father Peter attending the annual Clergy Retreat.
Please keep Father Peter and all clergy of our Diocese in your prayers.

**Friday 16th May : Adoration 11.00 am as normal
: Mass 12.00 noon as normal**



DEATH NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Leonard (Len) Moore** who has sadly passed away.
A Requiem Mass will be held in St Francis Xavier Church
THIS Monday 12th May at 10.30 am

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00

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 Associates: Kailani Tiernan/Pauline Fingleton

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@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

5th Sunday of Easter Year C: 17th/18th May 2025
Readings: Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144; Revelations 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Bryan Marriott Yvonne Head	Amanda Deeps Murray Deeps	Gary Reen Annette Reen	Mary McKendry Clare McKendry
EMOHC	Cheryl Bowen Phil Chapman	Sue Hetherington	Deacon Anthony (Front) Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Tony Hunter
Offertory Procession			Amy Derrick Frank	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

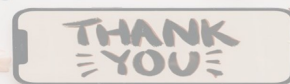
Jenny McCormack (*Woodburn*) Len Moore, Kim Holwell (*Lismore*)
Pope Francis, Kevin Nicholls, Sr Moira Sullivan RSM,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Tony Culican, Margaret & Michael Kovacs, Jozefa Jarzynski, Brian Tarlinton, Cecilia Condon, Neville Butler,
AND ALSO FOR: Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, 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: Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Anne Louise Dillon (Melbourne), Steven Kennessey & family, Maureen Borthistle (*Dalby*), Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie 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, Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre (*London*), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, 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, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Auntie Julia Paden, Greg Campbell,

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025

12th May	Monday 10.30 am	Marian Cenacle Anawim Room
12th May	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé 45 min of simple praise, meditation & music
13th May	Tuesday 10.00	Devotion to the Holy Face Lennox Head
13th May	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
14th May	Wednesday 8.00 am	menAlive Lennox Head
26th May	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Meeting
7th June	Saturday Time TBA	Healing Mass St Francis Xavier Church

Our Parish say's



to our parish community for supporting and promoting safeguarding.

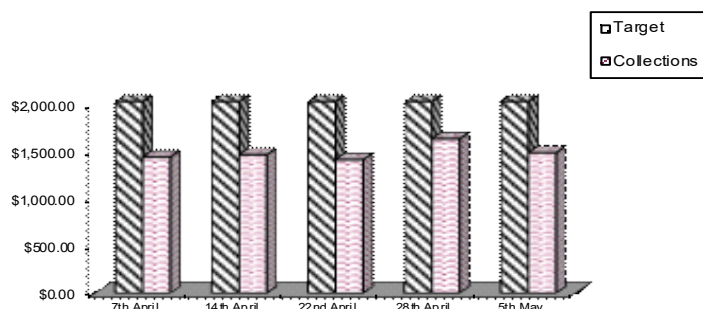
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter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

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARATELY 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 3.90% PER ANNUM - (effective from 15th May 2025) 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	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 1,439.00
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 372.75
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,465.65
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



The Good Shepherd always listens

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd tenderly carrying a sheep on his shoulders was one of the earliest images of Jesus in Christian art. It was found in the Roman catacombs, the ancient cemeteries outside the city of Rome where the early Christian martyrs were buried. It has remained a much-loved image of Jesus throughout the centuries.

Jesus teaches "I am the Good Shepherd" in this week's reading from the Gospel of John. Hence, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

In the reading Jesus speaks evocatively of the relationship between the good shepherd and the sheep of his flock. "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." The good shepherd knows his sheep so well that he knows them by name! They know him. They listen to his voice. He cares for them. They trust him. He leads them. They follow him. Indeed, the good shepherd, unlike a hired hand, lays down his life for his sheep. It is a relationship of trust, faithfulness, steadfast care and unwavering love.

Jesus goes on to speak just as evocatively of the relationship between himself and the Father: "My Father who has given them [the sheep] to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Father and I are one: this is an astonishing claim! Indeed, it will heighten the animosity in those religious authorities who oppose Jesus and escalate the already growing tension that will ultimately lead to his death.

In declaring that "the Father and I are one," Jesus is identifying himself with the God of Israel, the Shepherd whose praises resound in today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 99): "God, he made us, we belong to him; we are his people, the sheep of his flock."

That "the Father and I are one" means that Jesus, the good shepherd, is the very image of the Father, as Good Shepherd.

This much-loved image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and our reading from John's Gospel remind us to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, to follow him, and to hold firm to our faith and our trust in him. He is truly the Good Shepherd. He has laid down his life for us. His resurrection is the promise of ours. He calls us to live lives of faith, hope and charity, caring for our neighbour and for all creation.

As we prayed in the Responsorial Psalm, let us rejoice and be glad, for "how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age." We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia.

And on this Mothers' Day, let us also give thanks for our mothers, and for all those people in our lives who have cared for us and shepherded us on life's journey.

Anne Hunt © Majellan Media 2025

TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 12TH MAY 12.00 NOON SFX CHURCH

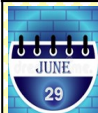
Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation through Meditation, Music and Silence

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS Tuesday 13th May 10.00 am Holy Family Church, Lennox Head



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY: The next Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held **Monday 26th May at 3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina.

Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome.**



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 29TH JUNE
'Thank you' Morning tea from our Parish for Father Anselm, following the 9.00 am Mass.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: This Sunday, May 11th, 2025, the Catholic Church celebrates the 62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a day set aside to "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). The theme for 2025 is **"Pilgrims of Hope: the Gift of Life."**



Pray for Vocations!: As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.

Everyone Has a Divine Vocation: "Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit."

~Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II

ALPHA : The morning series of Alpha that was advertised to begin last Monday has now been cancelled.

There will be another in the Series later in the year, which will include an evening meal.

Please watch for further updates for when this will be held.

Sincere apology for the cancellation of this event.
The Alpha Committee.



POSITION VACANT: St Anne's Long Day Care Centre is seeking a cook to work on Wednesdays 7.00am-2.00pm to prepare and cook meals for children Birth to 5 yrs of age (76 in total attend on Wednesdays). Position to commence Wednesday 4th June. Please contact Narelle Dewhurst 66875961 or ndewhurst@stannesldcc.org.au for further information.

Vocations Prayer Champions. The Diocese of Lismore vocations team is seeking vocations prayer champions. All the baptised share the vocation to be missionary disciples but some in the church are called to other vocations for building up missionary disciples. We want women and men who will join in prayer each day for an increase in these other vocations. This year our focus in prayer will be the priesthood. We want you to register as a vocation's prayer champion. Prayer champions agree to pray at 9am or 6pm (both if you want) for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. At the designated time each prayer champion recites one Glory be., one Hail Mary, one Our Father for the intention of an increase in priestly vocations. You can register at vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au or 02 6681 1048. Leave your first name, parish and your chosen time. We will let you know how many people are in prayer with you at that time. *Deacon Anthony Gooley. Director of Vocations.*



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



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 CDF 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.

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52;
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Revelations 7:9, 14-17
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

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 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS FRIDAY 16th 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.

FOR ALL MOTHERS

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains – we appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you.

Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster mums, mentor mums, and spiritual mums – we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children – we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children – we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

To those who step-parent – we walk with you on these complex paths. To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren -yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you.

To those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you and ask Mary, Mother of God to pray for us all. Amen.

