

# 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 of Easter (C)**  
(Good Shepherd Sunday)

**8th May, 2022**

*Alleluia*



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

**'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**

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**Feast Days**

**Our Lady of Fatima**  
*Friday*

**St Matthias, apostle**  
*Saturday*

# Happy Mothers' Day

## Blessed to be part of the flock

The image of God as shepherd of his people is strong in both the Old and the New Testament. Indeed, one of the earliest and most loved images of Jesus in the early Church was of him as the Good Shepherd who so loves his sheep that he lays down his life for them.

In the Roman catacombs, the ancient cemeteries outside the city of Rome where the early Christian martyrs were buried, we find very early images of the Good Shepherd. He is shown carrying a lamb on his shoulders. Holiness, goodness and grace radiate from his youthful figure. His sheep gaze trustingly at him and graze peacefully in his care. They know him, they recognise his voice, and they know that he will protect them from danger. He knows each of them by name and will never desert them.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd must have been a great source of consolation for Christians in the face of persecution. Indeed, a common prayer in the early Church for those who had died was that they should be taken to heaven "borne on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd".

Two thousand years later, Christians continue to find the image of the Good Shepherd deeply consoling and comforting, especially in times of trouble and distress. Psalm 23 is one of the most loved and prayed of all the psalms, often used at funerals. It speaks to us

so powerfully of the unfailing tenderness and steadfast love with which God cares for us, individually and as a community. Psalm 100 proclaims his kindness and faithfulness and in it we rejoice that we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

But let us reflect for a moment about us as the sheep of his flock! Now, those of us who have grown up in the country and watched sheep dog trials, or waited on a country road while a flock of sheep is moved by a farmer and his sheep dogs from one side of the road to the other, know how stupid and wayward sheep can be and how much patience and skill it takes to manage them! Though we human beings are blessed with capacity for intelligence and insight, we too, like sheep, often behave in scatterbrained and foolish ways.

But no matter how foolish or scatterbrained or uncooperative we might be, our Good Shepherd shepherds us, looks out for us, comes to find us when we are lost, and carries us when we need to be carried. He loves us and cares for us with an everlasting love. How very blessed are we to be the sheep of his flock! May the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd remind us to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, and to hold firm to our faith and our trust in him.

Anne Hunt  
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**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.**

**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

**Pastoral Associate:** John Kearney **Email:** john@sfxballina.org.au

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Bianca McInnes **Email:** bianca@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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joan Shumack, Grant McCoy,  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Ted Murphy, Bernard Evans, Aub Sainsbury,  
 Bishop John Carroll (*second Bishop of Lismore*)  
**AND ALSO FOR:** Todd Sheahan, Mark Butler, 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:** Louise King, Greg Campbell, John and Conchita Schroder, Tommy Roskell, Leila Aitken  
 (Sydney), Estelle Anderson, Tony Smith, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Mardi Seabrook, Barbara Levett, Maureen West  
 (Sydney), Noro Ruben Mazzorchi, Dorothy Preddey (Sydney), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris,  
 Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (*Caloundra*), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Patrick Connelly,  
 Patricia Evans, John Heaton, Dymrna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon,  
 Pauline McLachlan, Darcy Martin, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael  
 O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans,  
 Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa  
 Aged Care.* (Names of those who are ill will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to  
 remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

### THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is  
 essential for preparation and notification to the Priest.  
**CONFIRMATION:** 9th June, 2022 **RECONCILIATION:** TBA **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA  
**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.  
**ANointing OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.  
**FUNREALS:** In either church. Requiem Mass or Funeral Prayers. Church booking arrangements with Funeral Director of choice, Liturgy  
 arrangements with our priests.  
**HOSPITAL:** If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

#### PLACES OF WORSHIP ~ KEEPING US SAFE.

- Hand sanitiser is provided at entrances to our Churches
- Masks are not mandatory, but encouraged in our churches
- Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing is allowed
- Social distancing not mandatory, but encouraged
- Density limits are not mandatory
- If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.

**Thank you.**

#### THE DIOCESE OF LISMORE 2022 FLOOD APPEAL



**The Most Reverend Gregory Homeming  
 OCD, Bishop of Lismore offers his mes-  
 sage of comfort, support and hope to the  
 people of Northern NSW.**

The Diocese of Lismore has launched its 2022 Flood  
 Appeal. To donate in Australia, please transfer funds to the  
 account: BSB: **037-889** Account No: **1061 5829**  
 Account Name: **DOL Flood Appeal**  
 To donate from other countries please use this [PayPal link](#).  
 This link can also be used within Australia.  
 Unfortunately this appeal is not tax deductible. If you are  
 having trouble donating, please email:  
[appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au).

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

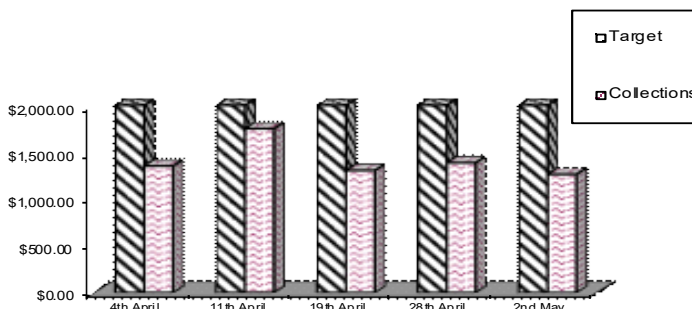
**Father Peter and Father Anselm**

#### DIF PAYS 0.45% 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

#### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 566.85
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 292.85
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,263.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



#### SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards  
 are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided.  
 Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

# Parish Notices

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



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Lucy Blanche and Audrey Jann O'Hearn** daughters of Luke and Abbey; **Quincey Jayne Smith** daughter of David and Ashleigh; **Jock Samuel and Patrick Lewis Proudman** sons of Joshua and Katrina.



**SINCERE SYMPATHY:** Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Joan Shmuack** who has passed away. Joan's Funeral Service was held on Friday 6th May in St Francis Xavier Church.

## VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL.

A petition regarding the Bill is at the doors of our Churches. Please sign to stop this Bill being passed in the NSW Parliament. We have two weekends to have as many signatures as possible. *Nicodemus O'Keefe—Right to Life NSW.*

## SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PREGNANT WOMEN

*'I'm pregnant, scared and don't know what to do. Can I talk to you?'* Pregnancy Help Sydney has been receiving these types of calls Australia-wide for over 40 years. Our free, confidential and non-judgemental 24/7 telephone support service has helped thousands of women who have reached out to us.

Embarking on motherhood should be a joyous occasion when a baby is planned for and welcomed into the life of its mother. Yet, for a significant number of women, this is not their reality. Our organisation provides an empathetic listening ear to support the woman who is challenged by her pregnancy, and together, explore the best option for her and her baby.

So this Mothers' Day, we are thrilled to be launching, as another tool to help women facing a difficult situation, our refreshed website: <http://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com>

Pregnancy Help Sydney:

Phone 1300 792 798 (help or support line)

Email: [support@pregnancyhelpsydney.com](mailto:support@pregnancyhelpsydney.com)

Website: <http://www.pregnancehelpsydney.com>



## A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care

for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict;

May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away. We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

[www.catholic.org/prayers/](http://www.catholic.org/prayers/)

## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL

**Today is Good Shepherd Sunday.**

This appeal is to help in the education of future priests for our Diocese.

The Church asks each of us to pray for vocations to the priesthood. We are also asked to encourage vocations.

Envelopes are available on the seats of the churches. These can be placed in the collection boxes at any of the Masses or returned the following weekend.

*Thank you.*

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

**THURSDAY 9th JUNE 2022**

**at 5.30 PM—St Francis Xavier Church**

**Enquiries can be made at each of our two schools regarding your child's enrolment or to the Parish Office if your child attends a local Government School.**

**St Francis Xavier School Ballina 6686 3370**

**Holy Family School Skennars Head 6687 5311**

**Parish Administration Office 6681 1048**



## DEVOTION TO MARY OUR MOTHER IN THE MONTH OF MAY

May, a month set aside by the Church to celebrate Mary. The Rosary is prayed in our Parish on

**Wednesday mornings at 8.00 am** with Chaplet of Divine Mercy, also at **7.00 am Sunday**

morning before 7.30 am Mass in Holy Family Church Lennox Head. **Saturdays 9.00 am** in St Francis Xavier Church Ballina.

**Pope Francis prayer intention for May:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates and the dedication to service.

[www.thecatholictelegraph.com](http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com)

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

**27th May to 3rd June 2022**



**RECONCILIATION**

**AUSTRALIA**

**'Be brave, make change'**

National Reconciliation

Week (NRW) is a time for

all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

## What is National Reconciliation Week?

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27th May to 3rd June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

**National Day of Healing : Thursday 26th May.**

## EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all in receipt of an income have an obligation to support the works of the Church through the Planned Giving Program, it is a responsibility of all of us to support the clergy, keeping in mind that they need to eat too. We offer this support by giving to the 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.



**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.)**

**Christian Meditation Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 11.00 am Friday  
**Sisterhood:** Mondays 10.30 am Parish Administration Building  
**Parish Youth Group:** 7.00 pm Saturday evening following 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Upper Room Parish Admin Centre.  
**Ballina CCR :** Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room,

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS: 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**
- By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you.

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love.

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

**Second Reading: Rev 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.



Google image

**Prayer of the Church and Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church  
**Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head:** 8.00 am  
Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am  
Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

**Welcome to our prayer gatherings.**



**Invest** with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516

**dif**  
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.