

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
Lent (B)**

10th March 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

WEEKDAY MASS

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
& FRIDAY**
MASS 12.00 noon

**** THURSDAY 12.00 NOON**
LITURGY WITH
HOLY COMMUNION**

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

PARISH ANOINTING MASS
THIS FRIDAY 15th MARCH ~
12.00 NOON

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
Catholic Church Ballina
PRESENTS

2024

PARISH MORNING
of Reflection

9AM SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA.
We will conclude with morning tea - a chance to meet and chat with other parishioners

You are warmly invited to join this Parish event in preparation for Holy Week/Easter

RECONCILIATION

REFLECTIONS

ADORATION

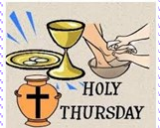
BENEDICTION

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM
28TH MARCH ~ HOLY THURSDAY ~ MASS
6.00 pm ~ Ballina

29TH MARCH ~ GOOD FRIDAY ~ LITURGY
3.00 pm ~ Lennox Head
3.00 pm ~ Ballina

30TH MARCH ~ HOLY SATURDAY ~ VIGIL MASS
6.00 pm ~ Ballina

31ST MARCH ~ EASTER SUNDAY MASSES
7.30 am ~ Lennox Head
9.00 am & 11.00 am ~ Ballina



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM

The Annual General Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on **Monday 25th March at 3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street. Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome!**



SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Marie Therese Powell** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass will be held on **Thursday 14th March at 10.00 am** in Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

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

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

ROSTER: 5th Sunday of Lent, Year B: 16th/17th March 2024
Readings : Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 50; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>Yvonne Head Jeanette Wilkins</i>	<i>Mark McDonald Emma McFadden</i>	<i>Gary Reen Annette Reen</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Cheryl Bowen</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony</i>	<i>Denise Miller Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Greg, Katie and Family</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marie Powell, Fay Herrick, Diane Lannoy, Sr Antoinette Walsh rsj (*Sydney*), Keith Smith, Stephen James Fox, Suzanne Wall

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Carolina Bordin

AND ALSO FOR: John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, 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: Janice Ball, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevé (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Sydney*), Geoff Johannes, Mary Howard, Robert Ireland, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tasmania*), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (*infant*), Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John and Conchita Schroder, Gregory Thomas, Jocelyn O'Brien, *unwell residents in Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

12th March	Tuesday 10.00am	‘Cherry’ Coffee
12th March <i>Holy Family Church</i>	Tuesday 10.00am	Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus
15th March	Friday 12.00 noon	Parish Anointing Mass
15th March	Friday 12.45 to 3.00 pm <i>Mother Teresa Room Admin Centre</i>	Friday Lunch Alpha Series
15th March	Friday 4.15 to 5.15 pm	The Presence <i>Mother Teresa Room</i>
15th March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
18th March	Monday 12.00 noon	Taize <i>45 min of quiet praise meditation & music</i>
23rd March	Saturday 9.00 am	Parish Reflection Morning
25th March	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary AGM

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**

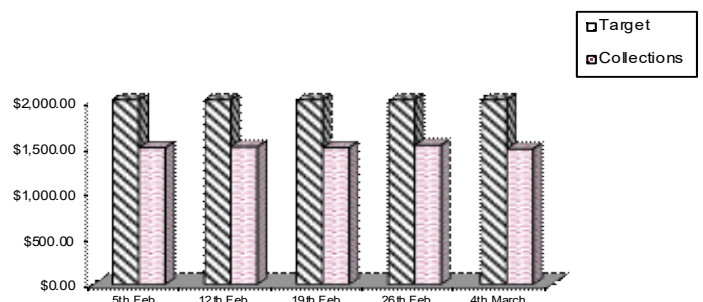
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card 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 - 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>	\$ 660.65
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 343.15
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,469.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



NEVER GIVE UP BECAUSE GOD DOESN'T

The 4th Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday, so called because of the first word “Rejoice” in the Entrance Antiphon of the liturgy. Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Midway on our long Lenten journey to Easter, our energy and enthusiasm may well be flagging. Today’s readings remind us of the source of our joy as Christians and prompt us to renew our resolve and to persevere for the rest of the journey. In the gospel, we hear the reason for our rejoicing: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16).

In the Old Testament, from Genesis on, the constant thread in all the books is the steadfast love that God has for God's people. No matter how many times the people and their leaders faltered in their faith and hope in God, from Exodus to the Prophets, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, to the Kings, such as David and Solomon, and in the time of the Exile in Babylon after Jerusalem was besieged and captured and the people were exiled from Israel, God stood by and cared for the people and, each time they wavered and fell, God called them back and reminded them to try again and be faithful.

In the reading from John's gospel, we learn about Nicodemus, a prominent member of Jewish society, who wanted to speak to Jesus but, perhaps afraid or confused or embarrassed, went to meet him under the cover of darkness. He was an admirer of Jesus but he was unsure about who Jesus really was: Did Jesus really perform miracles and was he the Messiah?

Jesus reveals to Nicodemus the astonishing truth at the heart of our faith and the source of our joy: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son . . . God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” In Jesus, this overflowing super-abundant love of God for the world is revealed in its unsurpassable fullness. He is the Light of the World. No amount of darkness will ever be able to cover it or shroud it.

So, as we continue to journey through this Lenten period, let us stop for a moment on this Laetare Sunday, to marvel, celebrate, give thanks, and rejoice in God's abundant and faithful love that continues to overflow in and around us in spite of the many troubles in the world. We may waver in our hope and faith, but God will never give up on us, even when we give up on ourselves and lose hope.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. The gift of God's Son was the ultimate gift of love. Let us rejoice! And let us press on with our Lenten journey.

Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2024

THE PRESENCE: FRIDAYS 4.15 to 5.15 pm MOTHER TERESA ROOM ADMIN BUILDING 'COME AND SEE'



4th SUNDAY IN LENT
9th & 10th March



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: First Reconciliation
Tuesday 19th March ~ 5.30 pm

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS TUESDAY
10.00 AM AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LENNOX HEAD.

Bishop Greg's Lenten Talks ~ Bishop Greg will hold his final Lenten Talk in St Mary's Chapel, Lismore 6.00pm this Monday 11th March. “Themes From St Therese of Lisieux”. *All are most welcome to attend.*



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office—Phone: **(02) 6621 9444** or Email: **safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS are on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church.

Love and prayers from our parish to Nan Swan who has turned 101, 'Happy Birthday, Nan.'



READERS ROSTER : PALM SUNDAY, TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2024

	Palm Sunday 5.30 pm Vigil	Palm Sunday 9.00 am	Holy Thursday 6.00 pm	Good Friday 3.00 pm	Holy Saturday 6.00pm Vigil	Easter Sunday 9.00 am
Readers	Jeanette Wilkins Pauline Fingleton	Wendy Hughes Margaret Tay	Nicole Sullivan Maxine Cole	Pauline Fingleton Leanne Robbins	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton	Nicole Sullivan Margaret Tay
	Passion Bryan Marriott Narrator John Jarzynski Crowd/other Jesus—Priest	Passion Gemma Duffy Narrator Nicole Sullivan Crowd/other Jesus—Priest		The Passion Trish Bazar Narrator John Jarzynski Crowd/other Jesus—Priest	Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole Epistle	
EMOHC	Yvonne Head	Julie McKinnon Cathy Campbell	Pauline Fingleton	Denise Miller	Jeanette Wilkins Phil Chapman	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell
Readers		11.00 am Maxine Cole Maurice Gahan				11.00 am Maxine Cole Warwick Manning
		Passion Warwick Manning Narrator Leanne Robbins Crowd/other Jesus—Priest				
EMOHC		Peter Bowen				John Jarzynski



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 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.

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*A reading from the second book of Chronicles*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you.**

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. **(R.)**
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **(R.)**
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R.)**
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R.)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: John 3:14-21***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 12th March**

Entrance Antiphon: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy.

Communion Antiphon: 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.

WEDNESDAY 13th March

Entrance Antiphon: I pray to you, O Lord, for a time of your favour. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, with your salvation that never fails.

Communion Antiphon: God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

THURSDAY 14th March

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

FRIDAY 15th MARCH

Entrance Antiphon: O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Communion Antiphon: In Christ, we have redemption by his Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of his grace.

FROM TODAY’S GOSPEL: DID YOU KNOW? • Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling Council of the Jews, the Sanhedrin. He was attracted to the teaching of Jesus but was afraid to openly become a supporter so he came to see Jesus during the darkness of night.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: • Pray this prayer often this week. *O God, who through your word reconcile the human race to yourself, grant, we pray, that with devotion and faith, we may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.*

www.cam.org.au/summit