

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 in
Lent (C)**

27th March, 2022



'ALL 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—5.00pm
Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASS:
at St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

NO MASS
THIS TUESDAY
29TH MARCH

A father's undying love for his sons

The parable in today's gospel tells us about the experience of being loved and forgiven. It is about a father who shares his love equally with his two sons and, as they mature into adulthood, he gives them space to make their own decisions.

The younger son decides he wants to have his own life and so he takes his share of the inheritance, moves away, and becomes disconnected from his father and brother. The older son, however, decides to remain loyal and to serve his father. But one day, after arriving home after a day working in the fields, he becomes angry after seeing his father embrace his younger brother who has returned home, having wasted his inheritance.

It seems unbelievable that his father would welcome the younger sibling because he had turned his back on his father and the family home. However, this is where we witness God's mercy which goes beyond our human thoughts and ways. Seeing his younger son coming towards him, his father runs to him, welcoming and hugging him with tremendous joy and love. To his relief, the younger son finds his father is still the same loving and merciful man.

His father can't hide his joy, so he throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The younger son feels even more loved by his father than before he left the family property. The older son is invited to join the celebrations, but refuses, bitterly complaining that he has served his father loyally all his life but

has never been treated like a king. Why would the younger brother be treated like a king when he turned his back on his father? It doesn't make sense! At this moment the older son doesn't feel loved, even though he has experienced his father's care all his life.

Both sons, in different ways, failed to appreciate and respond to their father's steadfast



Liturgy Help

love and generosity. The younger son, only when he had nothing left to lose, returned home, only then to realise his father's great love and mercy. The older son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, failed to recognise his father's unfailing love for him throughout his life and to share his father's joy in the younger son's return.

We too are greatly loved by God and we have the freedom to make our own decisions. Coming home to God, whatever the mistakes or poor decisions we have made along the way, is really a journey of love. It takes courage and humility, as the younger son showed.

God, our Father, never changes or wavers his love for us. He is always waiting for us. Let us make the move and go back home to renew our relationship with God, our Father. Let us open ourselves to his unconditional love and mercy, and let's be ready to share God's life and love with others, especially with the wounded ones.

Redempt Jawa CSsR
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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:** beemcinnnes@gmail.com

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: Alan Ayton, Maureen Sullivan, Yvonne Tagget, Sr Therese Dougherty pbvm, Caroline Lannan (*Melbourne*),
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Tony Lannan, Peter O'Connor, Don King, Sharon Lee McNiff-Parkes, Hector McNiff, Father Charles Kakumanu, Father Steven O'Donnell
AND ALSO FOR: Gerard Conroy, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerlake, 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: Estelle Anderson, Tony Smith, Anna, Kerry Jones, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Helen Johnston, 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, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, John Heaton, Dympna 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*

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, personal choice can be made if you prefer to wear a mask.
- Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing is allowed
- Social distancing not mandatory
- Density limits are not mandatory
- If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.

Thank you.

Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.
 Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.
 You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.
 Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.



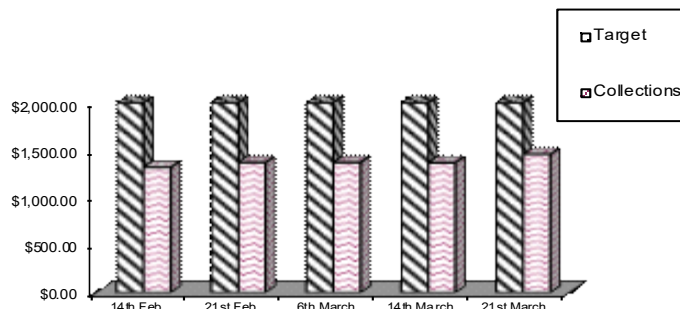
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese (1st collection).
 Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

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

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 684.90
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 268.85
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,456.00
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.




DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NEXT WEEKEND SUNDAY 3rd APRIL
Remember to turn your clocks **back** 1 hour.




BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Joshua Santos**, son of Igor and Kristina.

NO 12.00 NOON MASS THIS TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2022




STATIONS OF THE CROSS
each **Friday** evening during Lent - **5.30 pm**
SFX Church Ballina.


PARISH ANOINTING MASS FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2022 12.00 NOON




THE DIOCESE OF LISMORE 2022 FLOOD APPEAL
The **Most Reverend Gregory Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore** offers his message 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.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FLOOD APPEAL
Immediate needs of our affected families are food, clothing and housing items or items for their children. While offers of physical resources and equipment are appreciated, unfortunately, it is challenging to store, sort and distribute such forms of generosity. Therefore, we would appreciate donations of *Coles Group and Woolworths Gift Cards* (preferably the gift cards that cover groceries plus Big W or K-Mart). These Gift Cards can be dropped at the parish office and will then be shared amongst the most needy families by the school as soon as possible. (Approximately 30 families) Thank you.




SINCERE SYMPATHY
Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Maureen Sullivan** who has passed away. Maureen's Requiem Mass will be held this Monday 28th March, at 11.00 am, in St Francis Xavier Church.




SINCERE SYMPATHY
Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Alan Ayton** who has passed away. A funeral prayer service will be held on Monday 28th March, at 2.00 pm, in St Francis Xavier Church.


CHRISM MASS 2022
St Augustine's Church ~ Coffs Harbour
Monday 11th April at 7.00 pm



Flood Support for our School Families ~ 'THANK YOU' to everyone in our St Francis Xavier Parish family who donated gift vouchers over the last two weeks. We have raised in excess of \$4,500.00. Which is amazing! The school wellbeing team will begin the process of distributing these vouchers to our needy families next week.



4th SUNDAY OF LENT ~ Rosalie Story— Democratic Republic of Congo: Rosalie had a tough childhood. Her father passed away when she was just two-years-old and her mother struggled to look after the family on her own. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, women are traditionally responsible for household tasks, with limited employment opportunities outside the home. Rosalie's mother found it difficult to afford food and clothing, let alone school fees, and Rosalie had to drop out school. Then, when she was just 15 years old, Rosalie was forced to join the army. In recent decades, the DRC has experienced ongoing political instability, violence and conflict, and the recruitment of child soldiers is all too common. When Rosalie finally left the army after six years, she was eager to start a new life, free from violence. But like many ex-combatants, Rosalie found the challenge to adjust to civilian life overwhelming. With her childhood and education cut short by the war, she had missed out on developing skills that would help her to find secure employment..... **Your generous support today can help people like Rosalie to create a better tomorrow for their families and communities.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



READERS ROSTER : PALM SUNDAY, TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2022

	Palm Sunday 6.00 pm Vigil	Palm Sunday 9.00 am	Holy Thursday 6.00 pm	Holy Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil	Easter Sunday 9.00 am
Readers	Sophie Sullivan Passion Bryan Marriott <i>Narrator</i> Trish Bazar <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Mark Biddle Passion Richard Goss <i>Narrator</i> Nicole Sullivan <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Nicole Sullivan	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole <i>Epistle</i>	Richard Goss
Readers		11.00 am Maurice Gahan Passion Warwick Manning <i>Narrator</i> Jim O'Kane <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Good Friday 3.00 pm Richard Goss The Passion of Our Lord Maxine Cole <i>Narrator</i> Leanne Robbins <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest		11.00 am Warwick Manning

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12;*A reading from the book of Joshua*

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you."

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 2Cor 5:17-21;*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:***Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Lk : 15:1-3, 11-32***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man," they said, "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them: "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.



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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 Presbyterian
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**

Invest with peace of mind

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 CDFP 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.