

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 in
Ordinary Time (B)**

28th January, 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 TO FRIDAY
MASS 12.00 noon**

RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church**

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Feast Days

St John Bosco

Wednesday

**The Presentation of the Lord
*Friday***

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM : Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Lily Margaret Austin** daughter of Christopher and Krista.



**'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' DYMNRNA SHEEHY
CELEBRATING HER 100th BIRTHDAY**

30th JANUARY 2024

WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS

FROM ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

FAITH COMMUNITY

*'Thank you' Dymrna for your participation in
our parish over many years.*



'PARISH 'CUPPA' Next Sunday 4th February, following the 9.00 am Mass, in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church. **All welcome.**

CATECHISTS: A Catechist meeting will be held **THIS Monday 29th January** at 9.30 am in the St Teresa Room, Parish Admin building to plan for the new year. If you are an existing catechist or considering to be a helper you are most welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided.

Holy Family menALIVE Lennox Head~ will meet this **Wednesday 31st January** in the **Sacred Heart Room**, Holy Family Church from **8.00 to 9.00 am**. Contact Murray Parr for further information 0414 399 658.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

~ SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ~

CROWLEY CARE ACTIVITY CENTRE

7.30 am to 10.30 am

\$30.00 per person

**Registrations and payment to Parish Admin Office
by Friday 9th February.**

Guest Speaker : Robert Falzon cofounder of menALIVE



2024 LENTEN PROGRAM ~ 'A RESURRECTED LIFE'
The Lenten program will begin the week of
Ash Wednesday 14th February.

**Please contact the parish office to register and join a
group. Ph 6681 1048 or e: admin@sfxballina.org.au**



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 Ordinary Time, Year B: 3rd/4th February 2024
Readings : Job 7:1-4.6-7;1; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23; Mark 1:29-39

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>John Jarzynski</i> <i>Mick Vella</i>	<i>Jean Mackay</i> <i>Jack McKenzie</i>	<i>Annette Reen</i> <i>Gary Reen</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i> <i>Leanne Robbins</i>
EMOHC	<i>Janette Wilkins</i>	<i>Kevin Sullivan</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony</i> <i>Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maxine Cole</i>
Offertory Procession			<i>Greg Katie & Family</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
Nola Rodey, Lilli Vandk, Mick Ronan, Joan Flew, Michael Stokes, Pat O'Mara, Noel McDonald,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Fay Biddle, Joan Woolbank, Michael Harris (Bendigo), Angela Crowley, Tom Crowley, Brian Harris, Sharon-Lee McNiff Parkes, Michael Timmins, Kathleen Hicks
AND ALSO FOR: *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 faithful departed.*

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Hallie Butler (18 mths), Lynette Holland (Tasmania), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (14 mths), Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, 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, *Aunty* 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 Care, Bupa Aged Care.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024		
29th January	Monday 9.30 am	Catechist Meeting
30th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
31st January	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
4th February	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
5th & 19th February	Monday 12.00 noon	Taizé <i>45 min of praise meditation & music uninterrupted</i>
17th February	Saturday 7.30 - 10.30 am <i>Crowley Care Activity Centre</i>	menALIVE Breakfast
14th February	Ash Wednesday	
29th March	Good Friday	
30th March	Holy Saturday	
31st March	Easter Sunday	

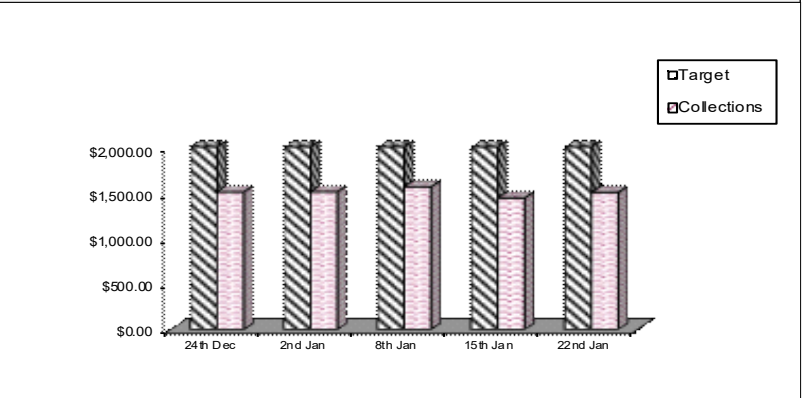
Until 1969, the ancient feast of the **Presentation of Our Lord**, which is of Oriental origin, was known in the West as the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, and closed the Christmas Cycle, forty days after the Lord's birth.

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>	\$ 728.45
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 292.30
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,500.40
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



A new way of teaching

In today's gospel, the Evangelist Mark, from whose gospel we will take the Gospel readings this year (Year B), tells us about the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Last week, we learnt of Jesus choosing his disciples. This week, Mark describes Jesus' first public action. In important ways, this portrayal of Jesus here at the outset of his public life encapsulates the key elements of Jesus' person and ministry that inform Mark's whole gospel.

In this brief passage we learn two vital things about Jesus: he teaches with authority and he has power over evil.

In the first few verses, Jesus goes to the synagogue in Capernaum. He is, after all, a faithful Jew. It is the sabbath. And there he begins to teach. To the utter amazement of those in the synagogue - for no one knows Jesus, has heard of him or where he's from - he teaches with extraordinary authority.

But this puzzling thing is then followed by another astonishing thing: an exorcism, when Jesus commands and rebukes an unclean spirit to come out of an afflicted man; here too he demonstrates extraordinary authority. Even a demonic spirit obeys him.

In this way, Mark describes that, in his very first public appearance, Jesus teaches with authority and performs an exorcism with similar authority. The people perceive something radically new here, and there is something compelling about the congruence of Jesus' teaching and his actions. They exclaim: "What is this? A new teaching—with authority!"

It is interesting to note that it is the unclean spirit - not the synagogue goers - who actually recognizes Jesus and calls him by his name: "Jesus of Nazareth . . . I know who you are, the Holy One of God." Notice too that the synagogue goers exclaim "What is this?" not "Who is this?" At the end of this gospel, the centurion will exclaim the truth Mark wants us to understand: "Truly this man was the Son of God."

So Jesus not only teaches with authority (and his listeners were clearly used to teachers who teach without authority), but what he teaches in word and in action is very clearly a NEW teaching!

His teaching is the good news of the coming of the Kingdom; his actions enact the good news he proclaims, demonstrating his power and authority.

As we go through this liturgical year, our readings from Mark's gospel will highlight these essential characteristics of Jesus' person and ministry: Jesus as teacher, who teaches with authority and whose teaching is the truth; and Jesus as victorious over the forces of evil and darkness, even death.

He is indeed the Holy One of God. Let us place our faith and trust in him, listen to him, and follow him. He doesn't promise that it will be easy, but he does promise that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Sophie Clements © Majellan 2024

**WELCOME BACK
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF OUR
THREE SCHOOLS**
*May 2024 be a year of many blessings and
successful achievements for everyone.*



**YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT
12-14 APRIL 2024
INVERCAULD HOUSE**

REGISTER HERE



ABIDE
"do whatever he tells you"

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 7TH 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Parish Office: (02) 6626 0200 or
Sr. Di, CM 0405 327 153



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**



Tribunal of the Catholic Church : Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on 6622 7288 or Email: **tribunal@lismore.catholic.org**



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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.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20;*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die'.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35;*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry

about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mark 1:21-28***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

*The Gospel of the Lord.***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 30th JANUARY AND THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY**

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

WEDNESDAY 31st JANUARY ~ FEAST OF ST JOHN BOSCO

Entrance Antiphon: Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen, I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all his property

FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY ~ FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Communion Antiphon: My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

DID YOU KNOW? • In the ancient world many forms of mental illness were attributed to being possessed by 'evil spirits'.
• In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is often presented in confrontational situations with evil spirits, with the Jewish authorities and even with his own disciples when they fail to understand who he is and what his mission entails.
• This text shows that where absolute good is, evil cannot remain.

MAKING CONNECTIONS • Recall someone who made a deep impression on you. What were the qualities of that person which so impressed and drew you to them? Was there a quiet authority? Was it a charismatic presence? Share your recollections and reflection with others.

• Jesus challenged the evil which oppressed people in his time. This week, speak out, publicly or privately, against oppression or an evil in our world. Confront evil at all levels this week, wherever you may encounter it. Become part of lifting the burden from others.

- Our prayer this week: *Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name and make it our glory to praise you.*