

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,
Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.

5th Sunday of Easter
(A)

10th May, 2020

Alleluia

FROM FATHER PETER
AND
FATHER ANSELM

Parishioners please be
assured of our prayers as we
comply with the
government's
restrictions with social
distancing.

Every day in our private
Masses we pray that the
parish community will be
safe from the COVID-19 virus,
and that our way of life and
the freedom to attend our
Parish Masses will resume in
the near future.

God Bless and keep each of
you. Father Peter
Father Anselm



Feasts



Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday

St Matthias, apostle
Thursday

Happy Mothers' Day

Filling our hearts with joy

Easter is a season of joy. We rejoice because our Lord has risen. The hard and painful journey that Jesus undertook with his gift to us of everlasting life. He is the Lord of life as he states in today's gospel. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The Good Friday experience led the disciples to believe that there was no hope and joy. Jesus' death on the cross signalled the end of their discipleship journey with him. The messiah whom John the Baptist had proclaimed was no more. His passion, crucifixion and death left the disciples bewildered and uncertain.

In this situation, God seems to be absent. Jesus comforts us by saying "do not let your hearts be troubled". Life sometimes is very tough, and Jesus never promises us life without troubles. Jesus wants us to have an untroubled heart even when we are in a difficult situation. So, Jesus calls us to have faith in him; "trust in God still, and trust in me".

Faith can keep our heart at peace and give us confidence that we have Jesus in whom we can rely on. These are not mere labels given to Him. Jesus took the way of the cross to show us the truth that God loves us very much and gives his own life to us. He is the Truth because he was willing to die to open the door to new life. Jesus is the Way and

without him there is no going. Jesus is the Truth because without him there is no knowing. Jesus is the life because without him there is no living.

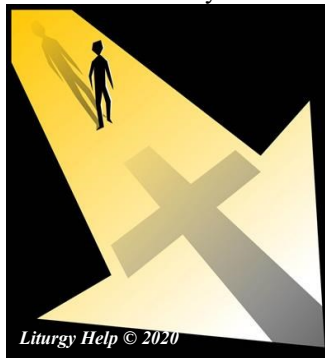
Today, the Internet is one of the things we most need in life. It allows us to access google, and to find answers to numerous questions. The Internet can also become the way to find direction, the truth to get answers, and the way to make life more enjoyable.

Do we still trust Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life? As disciples of Jesus in this millennial world, let us remember that we have good reason not to be troubled. Jesus invites us to stay united with Him, be conformed to him in self-giving love and follow His model of humility. Then, we will also be able

to endure with him our cross, and so share in his new life.

Once we encounter the Lord, receive his Word of life and believe in Him, the Lord will put his joy into our hearts and it will remain with us until the fullness when he comes again. Pope Francis reminds us that "With Christ joy is constantly born anew" (EG 1). With Christ, our heart is always full of joy.

Redempt Jawa CSsR
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Liturgy Help © 2020

**Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are from
20th March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass
obligation until further notice.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 204

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Email: parishcouncil@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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Bernie Scanlon, Sr Martha Casserley pbvm, Barry Schneider,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Bernard Evans, Aub Sainsbury, Raymond Tuckwell, Finley & Elsie McMartin, Leonard Twohill, Kathleen Reynolds

AND ALSO FOR: *Armando Bordin, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: Ted Murphy, Barbara Perry, Michael Patch, Gloria Greguric, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (*2 yrs*), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, Greg Shore, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (*Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks*)

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

For many people 'going home', means a return to comfort and security.

In the best homes children are unafraid, they know that their home is a buffer against some harsh realities beyond the door. As adults we carry that desire for security into all the various homes in which we live.

When we reflect on our childhood homes many of us can say of it what Jesus says of himself. It was the first place almost all of us learnt about 'The Way'. The earliest Christians were called people of The Way. It's a rich image denoting that Christianity is not an idea, it's a way of living, a path to follow.

For better or worse one of the distinctive features of most of our homes is that it's also where we are told 'The Truth'. Sometimes that deflates our egos or means we hear things we would rather not listen to. But hopefully the comfort and love which accompanies this truth telling comes from the ease and care in the relationships at home. Our family doesn't pull any punches with the truth because they know us too well and love us too much.

Most adults also remember their childhood houses as lively. 'The Life' in our homes was about the buzz of children going to and from school, various friends calling in, the reign of organised chaos where space was claimed and a position defended. Minor dramas were never far away and life was lived to the full.

It's not by accident that the image of Jesus preparing us a house and being the Way, the Truth and the Life are put together in today's Gospel. In another part of John's gospel Jesus goes further in describing himself as our master builder, as our home and even our lodger. We are told to make a home in him as he makes a home in us. What a terrific image of the intimacy Christ wants to share with us, and we with him!

The best homes, however, do not just protect and keep their occupants safe for eternity. A home is a means to an end, which is to give us the stability and sanity we need to keep going out to the world beyond it. In the same way, our home of faith with Jesus enables us to keep going out to a sometimes hostile world and share with others the Way, the Truth and the Life that sustains us. In a world where 70% of all people have substandard housing and millions of displaced people have to create homes wherever they are, we have our work cut out for us.

The Way we follow is about justice, development and peace for all people everywhere and not just the select few who can build the biggest mansions on earth. We are invited to keep speaking the Truth even if that makes us unpopular or different or at odds with the majority. And we have to keep living the Life which sees that our greatest joy comes from human dignity being celebrated everywhere.

If all Christians lived out this Way, Truth and Life we would, by His grace, fulfil Jesus' extraordinary prophecy that we could do greater works than He did. Now that's a challenge to take with us into the coming week!

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

DIF PAYS 1.10% 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

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.

Parish Notices

On behalf of Father Peter and Father Anselm
**'HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY' TO ALL OUR
PARISH MOTHERS.**

May God continue to Bless you and
keep you safe and well.



BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



Time of Live Streaming:
Sunday ~ 8.00 am

SINCERE SYMPATHY



Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of **Bernie Scanlon from the Alstonville Parish** who has passed away.

SPECIAL BLESSING FOR MOTHERS EVERYWHERE



God of Sarah, Ruth and Rebecca; of Elizabeth, mother of John; of Mary, mother of Jesus: listen to our prayer:

©Google image

Bless all who 'mother' and bring new life in any way, these 'mothers' who teach and guide, who encourage and heal.

Invite them to the table of your eternal feast, these 'mothers' who feed and nurture the life that has been entrusted to them.

Embrace them warmly in the intimacy of your love, these 'mothers' who embrace with affection those who are helpless and dependent.

Bless them today with all good things: with health, with laughter, with joy and with love, with pride in their 'children' and the support of many friends.

May all 'mothers' who have nurtured life in others be themselves nurtured one day in your strong embrace, there, for all eternity, to rejoice with their families and friends.

Amen. www.bne.catholic.edu.au

A Prayer of Our Lady of Fatima

We praise you, Lord, and bless you, for in a time of horrific war and pandemic plague, You sent us your mother, Our Lady of Fatima.

We sing praises to you, for even in times of sorrow and fear the Earth is still touched by one such as she.

And we are reminded, knowing that whatever war visits itself upon us, whatever deprivations, whatever want, whatever illness, whatever calamity endured by humankind that may cause us to look to the sky and despair, that your children do not toil in this world apart from your grace, that our prayers are not unheard

And we do not go forth without a mother's love.

Keep us devoted to you, O Lord, devoted in our prayer, our words and our acts, that all souls in this world may know your compassion, peace and mercy,

That all souls who have departed this world may find salvation. Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, pray for us.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Amen. Written by Edward O'N.Hoyt, 2017, www.crs.org.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioners with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.

- **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, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month.**

Thank you

MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

CATH NEWS

www.cathnews.com

Google Catholic Masses and click your choice

AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV

Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ Mass 6.00 am

I wonder what we will be like after this pandemic? But I really don't want to get "back to normal." I hope that in facing my fear and anger and learning the new rules of social behaviors, there will arise within me a more willing spirit to [embrace] "us" rather than "me."

E. Eachus

Adapted from Richard Rohr



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 6:1-7;

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R) 'Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9;

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by

the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

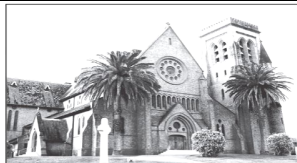
The Gospel of the Lord.



Google image

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. melbournecatholic.org.au



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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.