

# 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 in  
Lent (A)**

**29th March, 2020**



### Church Lockdown

Due to the National Lockdown St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina, St Mary of the Cross Chapel Crowley Village and Holy Family Church, Lennox Head are all now closed to parishioners until further notice. The Parish office will remain open until we are instructed otherwise. We will continue to "Publish" a Parish Bulletin while possible and upload it to this website.

**[www.sfxballina.org.au](http://www.sfxballina.org.au)**

## Opening our hearts and minds

It's a wonderful feeling to walk outside, to see the trees and the flowers, to feel the warmth of the sun on our body and to breathe in the fresh air. It's undeniable that spending time in the great outdoors is good for us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

However, in today's fast paced modern world, all too easily we can be caught up with things that need to be done around the house or at the office. It is so easy to be glued to the computer screen, our smart phones and other gadgets for hours on end.

Perhaps the modern world and modern technology have helped us to create our own 'tombs'. We have unwittingly set up comfort zones in our homes, in front of the television, or at our workplace computer. As the saying goes, we have become 'too clever by half'.

In the gospel this week, Jesus calls his friend

Lazarus from his final resting place, his tomb. He calls Lazarus out from the darkness into the light. He unbinds him and sets him free. Lazarus can once more experience the fullness of life found in the world around him, as well as the fullness of life in the people that love and care for him. He's been given a second chance in life.

In our sometimes chaotic lives, we can inadvertently alienate people who love and care for us. It is all too easy to lock ourselves into

our schedules and responsibilities and not spend quality time with others. Even family members who may live in the same house as us. It is important to allow them to unbind our eyes and our bodies and to see that there is something even more essential than work.

After all, we are part of a community, part of a family, and we are not alone.

In Jesus' life and ministry, he always surrounded himself with people and encouraged them to see the bigger picture. He wanted

people to open their eyes to others around them and to the wider world. Jesus set them free from the tomb of their lives, brought them out from darkness into light, unbound them and set them free. Today, Jesus wishes the same for us.

Let us during this period of Lent, open our eyes, hearts and minds to the world around us, to nature

and to people everywhere. For a time, let us put aside our responsibilities and our work and allow the life that is all around us to wash over us and enter into us; to experience and feel that we are part of something larger and wonderful. To be unbounded, to be set free.

Mary Chia CSsR  
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**NO Parish Masses**

**NO Sacraments within our Churches**

**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](mailto:kathryn@sfxballina.org.au)

**Email:** [parishcouncil@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; **Email:** [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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

**MESSAGE FROM FATHER PETER AND FATHER ANSELM**

Parishioners please be assured of our prayers for all of you as we face each day in these uncertain times.

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 very quickly.

Stay safe and follow all government instruction for your safety and that of our community.

God Bless each of you Father Peter and Father Anselm



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Marie Jean Akers, pbvm,, Martin Boland, Stephen Hill, Cecilio Natural,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Peter O'Connor,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Carolina Bordin, Boris Jarzynski, Elene Verdeflo, Philippe Picquet, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** 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, Dymrna 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)

**CHANGES TO THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH**

**NO BAPTISM, RECONCILIATION, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**ANointing OF THE SICK: PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF ANointing IS REQUIRED. 6681 1048**

**HOSPITAL: IF YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN HOSPITAL AND REQUIRE A PRIEST, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE. PRIEST DO NOT GO TO THE HOSPITAL UNLESS THEY ARE CONTACTED BY A FAMILY MEMBER ONLY.**

**PRAYER AGAINST COVID-19**

God our Father,  
We come to you in our need  
To ask your protection against the 2019 N-Corona Virus,  
That has claimed lives  
And has affected many.  
We pray for your grace  
For the people tasked with studying the nature and cause  
Of this virus and its disease  
And of stemming the tide of its transmission.  
Guide the hands and minds of medical experts  
That they may minister to the sick  
With competence and compassion,  
And of those governments and private agencies  
That must find cure and solution to this epidemic.  
We pray for those afflicted  
May they be restored to health soon.  
Grant us the grace  
To work for the good of all  
And to help those in need.  
Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary Help of all Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.



Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

**DIF PAYS 1.40% 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

# Parish Notices

## National Day of Prayer in this time of crisis: Sunday 29<sup>TH</sup> March 2020

Gracious God,  
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.  
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.  
We pray for those in need of healing.  
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.  
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.  
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.  
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.  
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19->

## Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.



Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

(Adapted from [Vatican News](#).)



## MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

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**CATH NEWS**  
**[www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)**

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**Google Catholic Masses and click your choice**

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**AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV**  
**Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ 6.00 am for Mass**



## ON YOUTUBE LIVE

You are invited to view Holy Mass from 8.00 am live and on demand from your devices at any time afterwards. You can access the livestream by follow-

ing the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org), or going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:

Join the 1500 people who have viewed Mass this week on line from around the world and tell your friends and family wherever they may be.



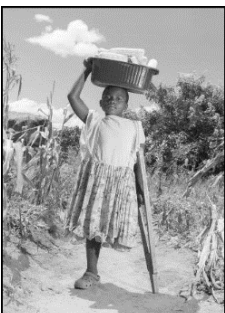
## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH—PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

**Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioner 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**
- **or, 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*

## PROJECT COMPASSION— Week 5 Malawi



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14***A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm***(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

**Second Reading: Rom 8:8-11***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:*****Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*****Gospel: Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

***'I am the resurrection and the life.'******If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,******and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.***

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**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](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)**Invest** with peace of mind[www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) 1800 802 516

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