

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.

5th Sunday in Lent
(A)

26th March, 2023



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—5.00 pm

Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES
at St Francis Xavier Church

Tuesday to Friday
12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church



Jesus is the resurrection and the life

The Resurrection is central to the Christian faith. Yet it is probably one of the most misunderstood doctrines. What does it mean to say Jesus is risen? What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?

In today's gospel we are presented with the story of the raising of Lazarus, which is intended to point towards our Easter celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus. It is also intended to stress the unique character of Jesus' resurrection.

The writers of the New Testament make clear that Jesus' resurrection was not like the raising of Lazarus, a resuscitation of a dead body. The gospels have several stories of Jesus resuscitating the dead: Lazarus (John 11:1-44); the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:21-43); and the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17). What makes these people's experiences fundamentally different from that of the resurrected Jesus is that all three were raised and would live on for a while; but would eventually die again. By contrast, Jesus would never die again and his risen life would be very different from the manner or nature of life he had lived for more than three decades among his family, friends and followers. After his resurrection, Jesus could walk through walls (John 20:19). He was not immediately recognised by some of his closest disciples. He seems to have "appeared" to numerous different people in differing situations. He could walk along with

disciples on the road to Emmaus and, then, simply "vanish" (Luke 24:31).

It is also true to say that, after the Resurrection, Jesus was the same person whom his disciples had known and loved. They recognised his voice. They touched him. They shared meals with him. Much of this serves the gospel writers' concern to emphasise the physical character of Jesus' appearances. Still it bears testimony to the corporeality of the disciples' experience. Jesus' resurrection was that of a human being, not just some disembodied spirit.

Of course, the resurrection of Jesus is but a portent of what God has in store for all who believe – as Jesus says in today's gospel, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

It is remarkable that all the early Christian texts known to us signal that the ultimate hope of the earliest Christians was the resurrection of the body. For those first Christians and for us, Jesus' resurrection was only part one of an eschatological drama that must await a future fulfilment with the second coming of Christ, when all who believe will be raised and transformed into a new reality where there will be no suffering or death. We will live on.

The story of Lazarus points towards this

future! Ian J Elmer ©Majellan Media 2023

From today's Gospel: By his resurrection, Jesus raises us from the tomb in which sin had buried us. Do you sometimes fail to comprehend the reality of what Jesus actually did for us? Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus came to the tomb. Do you think it matters how long you have sinned when it comes to Jesus welcoming you into his heart? Does your pride or shame ever get in the way of your relationship with Jesus? Do you ever think that you are so sinful Jesus could not possibly want you in the kingdom? In what ways does Jesus lead you out of the dark into the light, as he did by leading Lazarus out of the tomb? *Do you look for spectacular signs, such as Lazarus being raised from the dead, as evidence of the presence of God's kingdom? How and where can you find the kingdom in the ordinary events and occurrences of our daily life?*

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney **Email:** john@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

PARISH LIBRARY:



SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

ROSTER: Passion (Palm) Sunday Year A: 1st/2nd April, 2023
Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Jeanette Wilkins, Pauline Fingleton Bryan Marriott, John Jarzynski	Gemma Duffy, Wendy Hughes Richard Goss, Nicole Sullivan	Maurice Gahan, Warwick Manning, Leanne Robbins
EMHC	Yvonne Head	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Amanda & Murray Deeps Sue Hetherington, Wally Carter	Marie Sullivan, Angela Beglin Damien Kennedy Jean MacKay	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Betty Flakelar, Kathryn Nomchong, Stuart Ward (*Port Macquarie*), Michael Curgenvin, Shirley O'Brien,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Peter O'Connor, Tony Lannan, Don King, Father Bill Mills, Sharon Lee McNiff-Parkes, Hector McNiff

AND ALSO FOR: 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 ILL: Anne Jackson, Michael Hains, Ronald Windall, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*) Tanya White, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson 1 yr (*Brisbane*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymphna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* Julia Paden, Louise King, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John Moreland, 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.* (Please advise if a

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023

27th March	Monday 3.00pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
28th March	Tuesday 10.00 am <i>every Tuesday</i>	'Cherry Coffee Club'
30th March	Thursday 10.00 - 11.00 am 5.30 to 6.30 pm	'Presence' The Mystery of the Eucharist
30th March	Thursday 6.00 pm	Confirmation of parish children
31st March	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
1st April Saturday	Parish Preparation for Holy Week 9.00 am	*Mass/Lauds *Reconciliation *Reflection Morning tea
2nd April	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
29th April	Saturday 10.00 am	Men's Gathering with Bishop Greg

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 Presbyterian 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.

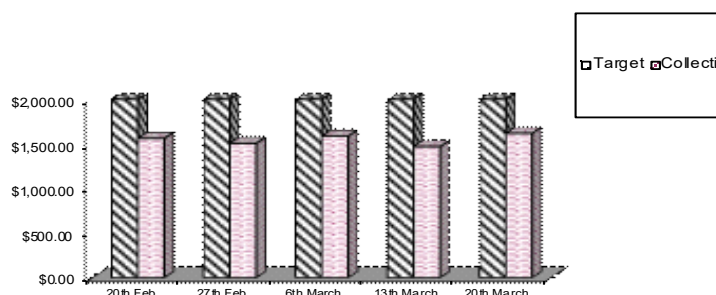
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you **use your Planed Giving number as reference**, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

DIF PAYS 3.20% 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>	\$ 1,079.30
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 624.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,618.40
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Parish Notices

Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

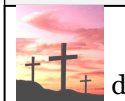


BAPTISM: Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Sunny Joseph Parkinson** son of James and Zoe; and **Molly Ann and Emma Chloe Smith** daughters of Ben and Kelly.



SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Kathryn Nomchong** who has sadly passed away. A funeral Prayer Service will be held this Monday 27th March at 10.00am in St Francis Xavier Church.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday's during Lent at **5.30 pm** St Francis Xavier Church.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM

The Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be held on **THIS Monday 27th 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!*



NEXT SATURDAY 1st APRIL 2023 PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION

To prepare for Holy Week and Easter ~ **9.00 am**
St Francis Xavier Church
Mass/Lauds, Reconciliation,
Reflection, Adoration, Benediction.
Morning Tea will be provided
All welcome.



PROJECT COMPASSION Fifth Sunday of Lent 25th and 26th March

Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



'WELCOME' 2023 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

This week the focus for our parish candidates for Confirmation is: **'Life in the Spirit'**. Candidates art work will be displayed in the our two churches. *We welcome each candidate and their family to our weekend Masses.* **The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated THIS Thursday 30th March in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.** **Candidates and their families will gather at 5.20pm to be seated by 5.30 pm to meet Bishop Greg before the Sacrament of Confirmation at 6.00 pm.**



SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Betty Flakelar** who has sadly passed away. A funeral Prayer Service will be held this Tuesday 28th March at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Church, Lennox Head.

PARISH ANOINTING MASS THIS FRIDAY 31ST MARCH ~ 12.00 NOON

CHANGE OF MASS TIME

As of 16th April the Parish Saturday Vigil Mass time will be celebrated at 5.30 pm.



DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NEXT WEEKEND SUNDAY 2nd APRIL

Remember to turn your clocks **back** 1 hour.

2023 CHRISM MASS: The Chrism Mass will be held at St Carthage's Cathedral, Monday 3rd April at 7.00 pm. During this Mass the Priests and Deacons gather around the Bishop who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming year. It is also a time where the clergy renew their vows. *Everyone is welcome.*

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM HOLY THURSDAY ~ MASS

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

GOOD FRIDAY ~ LITURGY

3.00 pm ~ Lennox Head

3.00 pm ~ Ballina

HOLY SATURDAY ~ VIGIL

6.00 pm ~ Ballina

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

7.30 am ~ Lennox Head

9.00 am ~ and 11.00 am ~ Ballina

READERS & EMOHC ROSTER : TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2023

	Holy Thursday 6.00 pm	Good Friday 3.00 pm	Holy Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil	Easter Sunday 9.00 am
Readers	Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan	Nicole Sullivan Gemma Duffy The Passion Warwick Manning <i>Narrator</i> Trish Bazar <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole <i>Epistle</i>	Nicole Sullivan Richard Goss
EMOHC	Pauline Fingleton	Adam Sullivan	John Kearney Phil Chapman	Denise Miller Cathy Campbell
Readers				11.00 am Maxine Cole Leanne Robbins
EMOHC				Maurice Gahan

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: Romans 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 Judaea.' 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:

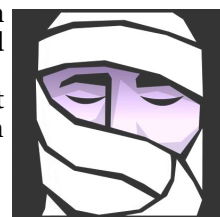
'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

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.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER**

TUESDAY 28th MARCH : Entrance Antiphon: Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord!

Communion Antiphon: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to myself, says the Lord.

WEDNESDAY 29th MARCH : Entrance Antiphon: My deliverer from angry nations, you set me above my assailants; you saved me from the violent man, O Lord.

Communion Antiphon: God has brought us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through his Blood, the forgiveness of sins.

THURSDAY 30th MARCH : Entrance Antiphon: Christ is mediator of a New Covenant, so that by means of his death, those who are called may receive the promise of an eternal inheritance.

Communion Antiphon: God did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all; with him, he has given us all things.

FRIDAY 31st MARCH : Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in distress. Deliver me from the hands of my enemies and those who pursue me. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Communion Antiphon: Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that dead to sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds we have been healed.



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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.