



# 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.**

### 5th Sunday of Easter (C)

*Alleluia*

**18th May, 2025**



*The Church honours  
with special love  
Mary, the Mother of  
God, throughout the  
month of May.*

#### 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  
WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY  
12.00 noon Ballina**

**ADORATION FRIDAY  
11.00 am to 11.45 am**



**RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday**

**St Francis Xavier Church**

**Feast Days**

**St Bernadine of Siena  
Tuesday**

**St Christopher Magallanes &  
Companions ~ Wednesday**

**St Rita of Cascia ~ Thursday  
Our Lady, Help of Christians  
Saturday**

*We invite everyone to our faith community.*



**BAPTISM :** Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Angus William and Mya Taylor Daley** children of Lachlan and Jessica



#### DEATH NOTICE

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Francis (Frank) Grotowski** who has sadly passed away. A Requiem Mass will be held in Holy Family Church, Lennox Head **THIS Tuesday 20th May at 10.30 am**

#### PLEASE NOTE: THIS TUESDAY 20th MAY

**12.00 noon Mass will not be celebrated in St Francis Xavier Church**  
(Requiem Mass at Holy Family Church Lennox Head at 10.30 am)



#### POSITION VACANT

**St Anne's Long Day Care Centre** is seeking a cook to work on Wednesdays 7.00am-2.00pm to prepare and cook meals for children Birth to 5 yrs of age (76 in total attend on Wednesdays). Position to commence Wednesday 4th June. Please contact Narelle Dewhurst 66875961 or [ndewhurst@stannesldcc.org.au](mailto:ndewhurst@stannesldcc.org.au) for further information.



#### 'CONGRATULATIONS' AILSA PATCH

*who recently celebrated her 100th Birthday  
With love and best wishes from your parish community.*



**CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY:** The next Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held **Monday 26th May at 3.00 pm**, in the Education Centre, Crowley Care, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina. Please consider attending, as you will be assisting the Aged Care Centre. **You will be most Welcome.**



**St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish** promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and people at risk in our parish community. To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone (02) 6621 9444 or email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au).

**The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. \$2.00**

**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 Associates:** Kailani Tiernan/Pauline Fingleton

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Kailani Tiernan Email: [ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@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

6th Sunday of Easter Year C: 24th/25th May 2025
Readings: Acts 15:1-2,22-29; Psalm 66; Revelations 21:10-14,22-23; John 14:23-29

|                         | 5.30 pm Saturday Vigil         | 7.30 am Lennox Head           | 9.00 am Ballina  | 11.00 am Ballina               |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Readers                 | John Jarzynski<br>Mick Vella   | Damien Kennedy<br>Jean Mackay | Richard Goss<br>Gemma Duffy                                  | Kailani Tiernan<br>Maxine Cole |
| EMOHC                   | Kristie Coster<br>Phil Chapman | Mark McDonald                 | Deacon Anthony (Front)<br>Oanh Hong Letran<br>Cathy Campbell | Brendon Clarke                 |
| Offertory<br>Procession |                                |                               | Cathy Andrews<br>Diana Evans                                 |                                |

| PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:<br>Michele Thorman ( <i>daughter of Dave Wilson</i> ) Frank Grotowski, Dot Egan, Jenny McCormack ( <i>Woodburn</i> ) Len Moore, Kim Holwell ( <i>Lismore</i> ) <b>Pope Francis</b> , Kevin Nicholls, ,<br><b>THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS, TIME:</b> Angelo Kenk, Inez Susann Jones, Bill Parsons, Ron Hanlon, Theresa Marili, Ray Marili,<br><b>AND ALSO FOR:</b> <i>Littorio Kenk, Phillip Dykes, Marj &amp; Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James &amp; Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C &amp; S Hosie, Mick &amp; Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie &amp; James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill &amp; Jean Shay, Cecilia &amp; Bill Condon Snr, Stan &amp; Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference &amp; Auxiliary &amp; for all the faithful departed.</i><br><b>AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL:</b> Alisha Nobbs ( <i>Brisbane</i> ), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Anne Louise Dillon ( <i>Melbourne</i> ), Steven Kennessey & family, Maureen Borthistle ( <i>Dalby</i> ), Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Beryl Reed, Daphne Sweeney ( <i>mother of Sr Kathryn</i> ), Vince Newman, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre ( <i>Ireland</i> ), Semmens family ( <i>Tas</i> ), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom ( <i>Dalby</i> ), David Le’Fève ( <i>London</i> ), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler ( <i>infant</i> ), Lynette Holland ( <i>Tas</i> ), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham,, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Knightly ( <i>Inverell</i> ), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Carmel Hackett, David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley | UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025 |                             |  |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|   | 19th May                     | Monday 10.30 am             | Marian Cenacle Anawim Room             |
|   | 20th May                     | Tuesday 10.00 am            | ‘Cherry’ Coffee                        |
|   | 20th May                     | Tuesday 2.00 pm             | Season 2 The Chosen Mother Teresa Room |
|   | 26th May                     | Monday 3.00 pm              | Crowley Auxiliary Meeting              |
|   | 27th May                     | Tuesday 10.00               | Devotion to the Holy Face Lennox Head  |
|   | 1st June                     | Sunday 9.45 am & 11.45 am   | Parish Cuppa                           |
|   | 7th June                     | Saturday 2.00pm             | Healing Mass St Francis Xavier Church  |
|   | 21st June                    | Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30 pm | Parish First Holy Communion            |
|   | 29th June                    | Sunday 9.45 am              | ‘Thank you’ Cuppa for Fr Anselm        |

**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 COLLECTED SEPARTELY AT MASS 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 3.90% 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](http://www.dif.org.au)

| THIS WEEK’S COLLECTIONS  |                                    |             |  |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| First Collection   | Support of our Diocese Priests     | \$ 876.60   |  |
| Second Collection<br>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund | Loose Plate                        | \$ 311.75   |  |
|  | Planned Giving Envelopes Collected | \$ 1,531.55 |  |
| Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target   |                                    | \$ 2,009.00 |  |

## A life beyond death

John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth speaks of a time when sorrow, death and suffering will be no more. Some two thousand years later we might think that John's utopian vision is little more than wishful thinking. Moreover, if we take the words of Jesus in this week's Gospel – *"You must love one another as I have loved you"* – we can also recognise that Christians honour this commandment more in the breach than in reality.

In the words of the English playwright, G K Chesterton: *"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried"*.

However, looking at the gospel, we see the new vision of creation and the new commandment of love emerge in a world of sinfulness and evil. This is demonstrated in Judas' act of betrayal culminating in Jesus' execution on the Cross. Knowing his life was coming to such a brutal and violent end, Jesus says he is entering into God's glory. In other words, even the most barbaric human activity is ever open to the mystery of the Father's forgiveness and love being poured out over the whole of God's creation.

Elsewhere, John tells us *"no one can see God"* (Jn 1:18). And yet the divine glory is manifest throughout the whole of creation – even or especially when humans are too blind to see. Czech theologian, Tomas Halik, says we fail to see God, not because God is too distant, but because God is too close. God is the light by which we see everything, but we do not see the light, only that which the light reveals.

In the Old Testament we are told God's glory is manifest to Moses in a pillar of cloud and in a burning bush. God appears to Elijah in the still, small, gentle breeze. Yet God's glory is also manifest throughout all creation as in every human experience not excluding the reality of the vilest forms of human evil – such as wars, death camps, genocides, and ecological destruction. If God's glory is present in the death of Jesus, how could it be absent from anything in our entire world?

This week's readings about the "new creation" are also signals of life beyond death where we are invited to share in the Resurrection of Jesus. Such "good news" is something we should want to let the whole world know.

This is the story of Paul and Barnabas in the first reading. However, if we are to be real missionary disciples, our first task is to be evangelised ourselves in order to witness to the divine Creator by *"loving one another as Jesus loves us"*.

Yes, this is a profound challenge. Equally what a wonderful privilege, called to be instruments of the "new creation" through our attempts and failures to be faithful disciples of Jesus. As Pope Francis says: *"whoever is in Christ is a new creation"*. And in the words of St Paul: *"nothing can separate us from the love of God"* (Rom. 8:31).

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2025

### DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS is cancelled for this Tuesday only.



#### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

24<sup>th</sup> May

Mary Help of Christians is the Patroness of Australia. The establishment of the feast has an interesting history, and a unique place in the Catholic history of Australia. The feast focusses on Mary's help to those in need through her intercession to confront sin and to stand against anti-Christian forces.

*Pope Pius VII established the feast in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in 1815. After being imprisoned by Napoleon Bonaparte, he established the feast in thanksgiving for his release.*

*Australia, a new colony at that time, had no Catholic priests and therefore no Mass available. The faithful recited and relied on the Rosary to sustain the Catholic community.*

*In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness.*

**MAY IS THE MONTH WE HONOUR MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD BY PRAYING THE ROSARY. In our Parish the rosary is recited every Saturday morning with the prayer of the Church at 9.00 am Ballina.**

#### PRAYER GROUPS IN OUR PARISH

##### Christian Meditation

**Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 11.00 am Friday.

**Prayer of the Church & Rosary:** Saturday 9.00 am Ballina

**CCR:** Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029.

**Taizé:** Every second Monday SFX Church from 12.00 noon.

**Marian Cenacle:** Monday 10.30 am Anawim Room.

**Parish Youth Group:** 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Upper Room Parish Admin Building **Sunday evenings.**

**Ladies Rosary:** 1st Tuesday of the month 1.30 pm phn Pauline 0438435 566

*You are welcome.*



#### PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis

**Xavier Church, Sunday 1st June,  
following the 9.00 am Mass and the  
11.00 am Mass.**

*Everyone is very welcome.*

**Vocations Prayer Champions.** The Diocese of Lismore vocations team is seeking vocations prayer champions. All the baptised share the vocation to be missionary disciples but some in the church are called to other vocations for building up missionary disciples. We want women and men who will join in prayer each day for an increase in these other vocations. This year our focus in prayer will be the priesthood. We want you to register as a vocation's prayer champion. Prayer champions agree to pray at 9am or 6pm (both if you want) for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. At the designated time each prayer champion recites one Glory be..., one Hail Mary, one Our Father for the intention of an increase in priestly vocations.

You can register at [vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au) or 02 6681 1048. Leave your first name, parish and your chosen time. We will let you know how many people are in prayer with you at that time.

*Deacon Anthony Gooley. Director of Vocations.*

#### MUSTARD SEEDS BOOK CLUB

*You are invited to join us for our Diocesan Book Club.*

*Small books, big ideas, growing faith*

*The first book Club is on the 28th May from 7 to 8 pm*

*Come together online as a community to share our faith as we read 52 Sundays and other Church Documents.*

*All are welcome and no background or formal education in theology is required!*

**Zoom Meting ID 847 3248 5504 Password : WS6wVx**

**To register interest contact Dr Madeline Beveridge, Pastoral Projects Officer, Lismore Chancery 0491 137 854**

**E: [mbeveridge@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:mbeveridge@lismore.catholic.org.au)**



## Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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 CDF 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: Acts 14:21-27***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. ‘We all have to experience many hardships’ they said ‘before we enter the kingdom of God.’ In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:****(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God,  
to make known to men your mighty deeds  
and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R.)**

3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Revelations 21:1-5***A reading from the book of the Apocalypse*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation.

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

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

**Alleluia!****Gospel: John 13:31-35***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

When Judas had gone Jesus said:  
‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified,  
and in him God has been glorified.  
If God has been glorified in him,  
God will in turn glorify him in himself,  
and will glorify him very soon.  
My little children,  
I shall not be with you much longer.  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another;  
just as I have loved you,  
you also must love one another.  
By this love you have for one another,  
everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 20th MAY ~ FEAST OF ST BERNARDINE OF SIENA**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Sing praise to our God, all you who fear God, both small and great, for now salvation and strength have come, and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Christ, alleluia.

**WEDNESDAY 21st MAY ~ FEAST OF ST CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES & COMPANIONS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let my mouth be filled with your praise, that I may sing aloud; my lips shall shout for joy, when I sing to you, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord has risen and shone his light upon us, whom he has redeemed by his Blood, alleluia.

**THURSDAY 22nd MAY ~ FEAST OF ST RITA OF CASICA**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let us sing to the Lord, for he has gloriously triumphed. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** Christ died for all, that those who live may live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and is risen, alleluia

**FRIDAY 23rd MAY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Crucified is risen from the dead and has redeemed us, alleluia.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The title ‘Son of Man’ is one that is often used by Jesus in the gospels to describe himself.
- In the Gospel of John, when Jesus speaks of being glorified or exalted, he is referring to his death on the cross. For John, this is the moment of supreme triumph for Jesus.
- This text comes from a section of John’s Gospel known as the Farewell Discourse, which is delivered by Jesus to his friends just before his arrest. Here, Judas has already gone out to betray him.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

- Sometimes it is easy to love but at other times it becomes very difficult. Share an experience of being loved beyond what was expected or even deserved. Or share an occasion when you were called on to continue loving, even though it was very difficult

*Reach outside the safe confines of your family and friends to help others. Put your Christian love into action.*