

# 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 (C)

3rd April, 2022



'WELCOME'

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—5.00pm  
Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASS:  
at St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION  
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina  
St Francis Xavier Church

## Mercy and compassion above all

If you were asked to name ten famous figures in the Bible, you would probably list a series of well-known male identities, for example, Abraham, Moses, Job, Jesus, Peter, or Paul. Of the 1426 names of people mentioned in the Bible, 1315 are male. Only 111 women's names appear in the Sacred Scriptures.

Given these statistics, one might rightly assume that both women and the issues specific to women were largely ignored by the Biblical writers. Today's Gospel, however, presents us with an anomaly — a nameless, adulterous woman whose story proved so powerful that it survived three centuries to be later included in the Fourth Gospel. What is even more remarkable is that it involved a woman who was far from exemplary in her behaviour. Women play an important role in the Fourth Gospel.

Jesus' mother is offered as an example of the perfect disciple (Jn 2:3-4); the woman at the well in Samaria (Jn 4) is presented as a prototype of the Christian missionary (Jn 4:4-42); and, the first witness of the resurrection is Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:11-18), a detail that grants apostolic status to a woman.

The story of the women condemned by a mob for her extramarital affairs is very different. On the one hand, it appears to be a stray tradition about Jesus that was added to the Gospel in the third century. On the other, the subject of the story is not held up as an example of anything other than as a recipient of Jesus' mercy and compassion.

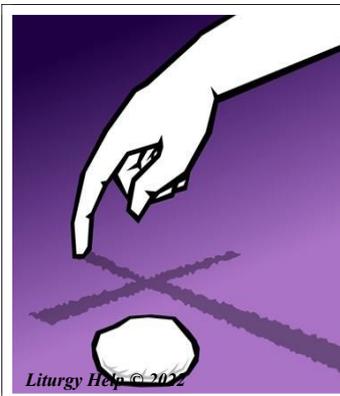
Some early manuscripts have this story in Luke's Gospel; and it is a worthy sequel to

last week's story of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32). Just as the Lukan Jesus told that story of the shameless father who sought to reconcile his two sons, so too here this tale serves to highlight that the call to be a Christian is a call to be different, even shameful, in the eyes of wider society.

Jesus was not one to conform to the mentality of the crowd demanding the woman's death. He saw through the hypocrisy of the crowd demanding the woman's death. He knew that their appeal to the authorities, both religious and civil, was but an attempt to hide from the real demands of God's covenantal love.

In a society that saw women as property, Jesus held to a broader, more equalitarian perspective, despite the risk of being seen as different and dangerous. For Jesus, mercy and compassion trump all other demands, even the legal customs of society. He chose to identify with someone shamed by wider society and condemned by the mob.

Like the dysfunctional family of last week's Gospel, the story of the adulterous woman suggests that Christians too must be shameless in their compassion for the poor and lowly, especially those whose behaviours are deemed shameful. To publicly declare one's allegiance to the crucified Christ is to identify oneself with all those marginalised by the cultural expectations of society — be they refugees, drug addicts, prostitutes, adulterers, or criminals.



Liturgy Help © 2022

Ian J Elmer  
© Majellan Media 2022

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

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

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Bianca McInnes Email: beemcinnnes@gmail.com

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](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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Meehan, Rose Mulgrew (*Ireland*), Alan Ayton, Maureen Sullivan, Yvonne Tagget, Sr Therese Dougherty pbvm,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Kath Hankinson, Father Charles Kakumanu, Father Steven O'Donnell

**AND ALSO FOR:** *Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerlake, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, 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:** Leila Aitken (Sydney), Estelle Anderson, Tony Smith, Anna, Kerry Jones, Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (*Sydney*), Noro Ruben Mazzorchi, Dorothy Preddey (*Sydney*), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (*Caloundra*), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, John Heaton, Dymrna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Pauline McLachlan, Darcy Martin, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa*

### THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest.

**CONFIRMATION:** 9th June, 2022

**RECONCILIATION:** TBA

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

**FUNREALS:** In either church. Requiem Mass or Funeral Prayers. Church booking arrangements with Funeral Director of choice, Liturgy arrangements with our priests.

**HOSPITAL:** If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

#### PLACES OF WORSHIP ~ KEEPING US SAFE.

- Hand sanitiser is provided at entrances to our Churches
- Masks are not mandatory, personal choice can be made if you prefer to wear a mask.
- Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing is allowed
- Social distancing not mandatory
- Density limits are not mandatory
- If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.

**Thank you.**

#### THE DIOCESE OF LISMORE 2022 FLOOD APPEAL

**The Most Reverend Gregory Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore offers his message of comfort, support and hope to the people of Northern NSW.**

The Diocese of Lismore has launched its 2022 Flood Appeal. To donate in Australia, please transfer funds to the account: BSB: **037-889** Account No: **1061 5829**

Account Name: **DOL Flood Appeal**

To donate from other countries please use this [PayPal link](#). This link can also be used within Australia.

Unfortunately this appeal is not tax deductible. If you are having trouble donating, please email: [appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au).



**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

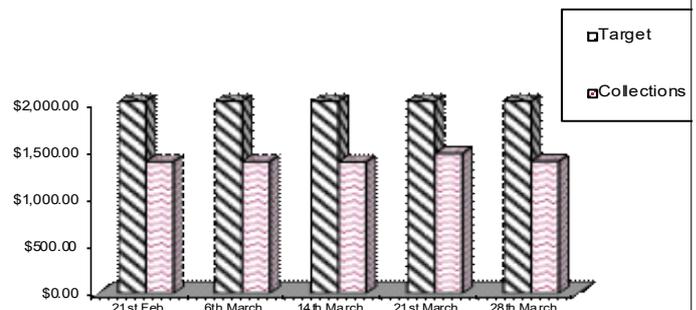
**Father Peter and Father Anselm**

#### DIF PAYS 0.45% 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

#### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 552.25
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 223.80
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,373.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



#### 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 and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

# Parish Notices

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

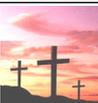


**DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS THIS SUNDAY 3rd APRIL**



**SINCERE SYMPATHY**

Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Peter Meehan** who has passed away. Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday, 7th April at 10.00am in St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

each **Friday** evening during Lent - **5.30 pm** at St Francis Xavier Church

**PARISH ANOINTING MASS THIS FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2022 12.00 NOON**



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **India Jade Wing**, daughter of Ashley and Rachelle; **Rafferty Charles Singh Bagraith** son of Kulveer and Danielle.



**THIS SATURDAY 9TH APRIL PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH To prepare for Holy Week 9.00 am ~ St Francis Xavier Church Morning Tea will be provided Please See Insert All 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 ~ Ballina 11.00 am ~ Ballina**

**CHRISM MASS 2022**

**St Augustine's Church ~ Coffs Harbour Monday 11th April at 7.00 pm**

**GENTLE AS SILENCE**

1. Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence, Of all that I love here on Earth. All the beauty I see, He has given to me. And His giving is as gentle as silence.

2. Every day, every hour, every moment, Have been blessed by the Strength of His love. At the turn of each tide, He is there at my side, And His touch is as gentle as silence.

3. There've been times when I've turned from His presence, and I've walked other paths, other ways. But I've called on His name, In the dark of my shame, And his mercy was as gentle as silence.

**Quote: Pope Francis** *'The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord's mercy motivates us to do better'.*



**5th SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Shaniella's Story ~ Solomon Islands**

Shaniella, 23, grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her parents and three brothers. In 2020, Shaniella moved away to study hospitality and tourism at a vocational school supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI), through the Happy, Healthy, Holistic Community Development program. The school is in a particularly disaster-prone area and not long after Shaniella started, the school was hit by landslide, flooding, and a cyclone, all in quick succession. The school's main source of water was destroyed, buildings were damaged and the garden, which the school relied on for food, was destroyed. With your kind support, CASI helped install water tanks, restoring clean water access to nearby schools, health centres and the wider community. Training was held in agricultural skills to help boost the school community's food security, as well as in environmental risk management and emergency responses. **Your generous support today can help people like Shaniella to create a better tomorrow for their families and communities.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.



**READERS ROSTER : PALM SUNDAY, TRIDDUM AND EASTER SUNDAY 2022**

	<b>Palm Sunday 6.00 pm Vigil</b>	<b>Palm Sunday 9.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Thursday 6.00 pm</b>	<b>Holy Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil</b>	<b>Easter Sunday 9.00 am</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Sophie Sullivan <b>Passion</b> Bryan Marriott <i>Narrator</i> Trish Bazar <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Mark Biddle <b>Passion</b> Richard Goss <i>Narrator</i> Nicole Sullivan <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	Nicole Sullivan	Trish Bazar Pauline Fingleton Maurice Gahan Maxine Cole <i>Epistle</i>	Richard Goss
<b>Readers</b>		<b>11.00 am</b> Maurice Gahan <b>Passion</b> Warwick Manning <i>Narrator</i> Jim O'Kane <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest	<b>Good Friday 3.00 pm</b> Richard Goss <b>The Passion of Our Lord</b> Maxine Cole <i>Narrator</i> Leanne Robbins <i>Crowd/other</i> Jesus—Priest		<b>11.00 am</b> Warwick Manning

**First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21;**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing;

they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Phil 3:8-14;**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on

faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

With all your heart turn to me, For I am tender and compassionate.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

**Gospel: Jn : 8:1-11**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS: 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**

• **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the**



**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 CDFP 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.