

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.**

**6th Sunday in
Ordinary Time (A)**

12th February, 2023

'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—5.00 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

Feast Day
Sts Cyril & Methodius
Tuesday



To be better gospel people

In today's gospel it seems Jesus is asking too much of us! Following the commandments is not enough. We must also avoid anger, abusive language, lustful thoughts, and not take oaths of any kind! Even calling someone a 'fool' or 'renegade' is an offence. But is Jesus actually asking us to follow an impossible set of commandments ... or is he doing something else?

First, we need to note Jesus' statement in Matthew's Gospel: "I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to complete them". The community of disciples Jesus is addressing are all Jews who show great respect for the Law. The pharisees, in particular, are suspicious of Jesus because he doesn't speak much about major Jewish rules such as circumcision, food laws or Sabbath requirements. At times, they think, Jesus even acts against them!

However, Jesus is not interested in debating them about any particular law. Instead, he challenges their inadequate, superficial – at times hypocritical – thinking that assumes God's favour is won by following the letter of the Law.

In fact, Jesus says the Law does not go far enough unless it highlights love of God and neighbour. So, Jesus reinterprets the Law according to the spirit of the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the pure in heart; blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are the merciful; blessed are the peacemakers".

But, who among us can claim to be these perfect "Beatitude people"? We are still left

with this problem of what seems to be the "impossibility of the gospel" captured in Jesus' statement: "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect". Now, Jesus is not naïve. He is perfectly aware that none of us – scribes, pharisees or his own disciples – is able to claim this degree of spiritual conversion to the law of love. So, do we just wash our hands, shrug our shoulders and carry on as before?



Or do we take the second option of turning to the God of love and mercy who challenges us to change our ways, forgives our failures, and assists us to become more effective "gospel people"? To be a gospel person is to be on a journey. This call to deepening conversion is not only needed in the current world of geo-politics; it is also needed in our own Christian communities.

Let us together look to God's revelation in Jesus and the Scriptures so wonderfully summarised in today's reading from St Paul: "The things no eye has seen, no ear has heard, things beyond the human mind, all that God has prepared for those who love him". The gospel is not impossible because it is the wisdom and work of God in process. As we continue on our life's journey, living and growing as gospel people, let us play our small but important role in bringing the gospel to birth in our families, communities and world.

Gerard Hall SM
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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

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina
Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

ROSTER: 7th Sunday Year A: 18th/19th February, 2023 Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18; Psalm 102; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Matt 5:38-48			
	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Abbie Beecher Pauline Fingleton	Julie McKinnon Nicole Sullivan	Leanne Robbins Maurice Gahan
EMHC	John Jarzynski	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Maxine Cole
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Wally Carter Sue Hetherington	Jean MacKay	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Patricia Evans (Melbourne, sister of Nola Johnson), Kevin Daley (brother of Allan), Fay Biddle (Muswellbrook, mother of Mark), Michael Harris (Melbourne), Richard Patterson (Wardell),
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Eileen Cook, Mira Sludic,
AND ALSO FOR: Stan Parry, 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, 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: Kathryn Nomchong, 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, Dymrna 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 name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

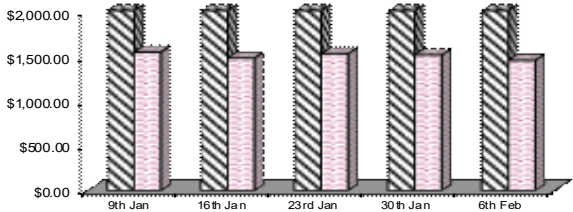
UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023		
22nd February	Mass 12.00 noon 6.00 pm	Ash Wednesday
24th February	Friday 5.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
27th February	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Care Auxiliary Meeting
28th February	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry Coffee Club' Morning Tea
3rd March	Friday 9.30 am	World Day of Prayer
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2023 Thursday 30th March ~ 5.30 pm St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina Bishop Gregory Homeming OCD For further information regarding enrolment for the Sacrament of Confirmation contact your School Office or the Office of the Parish Administration. 6681 1048 Students enrolled in Year 3 and above and have been baptised are eligible to be Confirmed.		

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 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 2.60% 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	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 836.70	
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 595.65	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,446.20	
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00	

Parish Notices

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



CATECHISTS MEETING

Upper Room, Parish Administration Building
THIS Friday 17th February ~10.00 am.
All Catechists and helpers are encouraged to attend. Morning Tea provided.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

The first Crowley Auxiliary meeting for 2023 will be held **Monday 27th February 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!



2023 LENTEN PROGRAM 'TRIUMPH'

Let's have Lenten Reflection groups! Come out of Covid isolation and join with others in the 'Triumph' program (from the Wollongong Diocese)
What day and time would you like to come?

Please place your name on the sheet at the back of the church ~ last chance this weekend. Reminder! Ash Wednesday next week 22nd February.



'CHERRY COFFEE CLUB'

Ladies of our parish you are invited to gather for morning tea.
10.00 am Tuesday 28th February 2023
Cherry Street Bowling Club.
No booking required. All welcome

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place **on Friday's during Lent** at 5.30 pm in St Francis Xavier Church commencing 24th February.



ASH WEDNESDAY

22nd FEBRUARY 2023

MASS TIMES

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

12.00 noon

6.00 pm



Enrich your Marriage with The Marriage Kit by SmartLoving

An enrichment course for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship as God intended. Accessed from the privacy of your home on your own timetable, this online course will energise your relationship, revitalise your passion and equip you with practical tools for every day.

To find out more visit: smartloving.org/marriage-kit



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 3rd MARCH, 2023

'I have heard about your faith?'

Prepared by the Taiwanese WDP Committee



St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Ballina.

9.30 am

followed by morning tea.



Dear Parishioners of St Francis Xavier Parish, Ballina. Right now, the people of Syria and Türkiye are facing a humanitarian catastrophe.

Thousands of people have been killed after a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Türkiye and northern Syria, followed by another 7.5 magnitude earthquake only hours later.

The death toll is increasing by the hour. Vital infrastructure like hospitals, schools, utilities and water and sanitation systems have been damaged or reduced to rubble.

Freezing winter weather is only adding to the devastation, as the thousands left injured, trapped or homeless are stuck in bitter cold and freezing rain. The WHO estimates that at least 23 million people have been affected by the earthquake, one of the largest to hit the region in over a century.

Parishioners of St Francis Xavier Parish, the people of Syria and Türkiye need your urgent support today. Please make a donation to help support emergency relief efforts on-the-ground.

Thank you.

Go to: www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Are you interested in learning more about Liturgy, Sacraments, Prayer, Scripture, Church History, Ministry Leadership, Catholic Doctrine, Ecclesiology, Social Justice, Spirituality, Morality and/or Youth Ministry at a basic, intermediate or advanced level at a very reasonable cost and over three or five weeks? Parishioners can now access the VLCFF through the Lismore Diocesan partnership with Dayton University.

Cycle 2 Registrations are now open, closing 22nd February Learn more about the VLCFF, the available courses, timetable, costs and how to register.

Contact Tony Worner for further information, to discuss options, or enquire about a closed course (minimum of 10 people) VLCFF.LismoreDiocese@stagnesparish.org.au.



Parents - in the interest of safety, please always accompany your children to the church toilet.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office:

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

'Somewhere we know that without silence words lose their meaning, that without listening speaking no longer heals, that without distance closeness cannot cure.'
— Henri J.M. Nouwen

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
Sisterhood: in recess.

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church
Parish Youth Group: in recess
Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029

First Reading: Sir 15:15-20;*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**
2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **(R.)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:6-10;*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our

glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

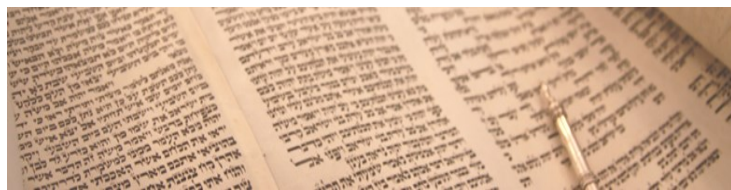
Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER****FEAST OF STS CYRIL & METHODIUS ~ TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 2023****Entrance Antiphon:** These are holy men who became friends of God, glorious heralds of divine truth.**Communion Antiphon:** The disciples went forth and preached the Gospel, while the Lord worked with them, confirming the word through accompanying signs.

NEW PARISHIONER? If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, ***we welcome you to our faith community.*** Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the box provided or contact the parish office. If 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. ***We look forward to meeting you.***

**Invest** with peace of mindwww.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.