

# 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.**

### 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

**16th February, 2025**

#### 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

**At St Francis Xavier Church**

**WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY**

**12.00 noon MASS**

**\*\*NO 12.00 NOON MASS  
TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY\*\***

**ADORATION FRIDAY**

**11.00 am to 11.45 am**



#### RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina**

**St Francis Xavier Church**

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**Feast Day**

**The Chair of St Peter**

**Saturday**



*We invite everyone without exception to our faith community.*

#### PARISH NOTICES

**THIS TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY THERE WILL BE  
NO MASS AT 12.00 NOON.**

**ADDITIONAL COLLECTION AT THIS WEEKEND MASSES**  
for those suffering the devastating effects of the Townsville floods.  
All monies will be sent directly to the Townsville Diocese. Thank you.  
*Bishop Greg Homeming OCD Bishop of Lismore.*



#### CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ AGM

The Annual General Meeting for Crowley Auxiliary will be held on  
**Monday 24th February 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.*



#### PARISH 'CUPPA'

**in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church,  
Sunday 2nd March, following the 9.00 am Mass.  
Everyone is very welcome.**

**TAIZÉ THIS MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 12.00 NOON SFX CHURCH**  
*Encouraging the spirit of Kindness, Simplicity and Reconciliation through  
Meditation, Music and Silence*

**DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS Tuesday**  
at 10.00 am Holy Family Church Lennox Head.

#### BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALK SERIES CONTINUES... THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Bishop Greg's talks will be held on Mondays at 6.00 pm

St Mary's Chapel, Cathedral Grounds:

Monday 17th March

Monday 24th March

It will be available to view on the YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU>

*All are most welcome!*



#### 'THANK YOU'

for the wonderful response to the call for additional Catechist for 2025.  
5 parishioners have come forward to assist children in our State Schools  
learn and come to know and love our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**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:**

**Administrator of Ballina Parish:** Father Peter Padsungay

**Assistant Priest:** Father Anselm Okeke

**Deacon:** Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

**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)**

**PARISH LIBRARY:**

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

**SCHOOLS:**

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

**AGED CARE:**

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

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 22nd/23rd February 2025**

**Readings: 1 Samuel 26: 7-9, 12-13 22-23; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 15:15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38**

	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	XCC XCC	Angela Beglin Michael Piccoli	Nicole Sullivan Gemma Duffy	Richard Goss Maxine Cole
<b>EMOHC</b>	XCC Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Mark McDonald	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell.	Peter Bowen
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			Cathy Andrews Dianna Evans	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Graham Smith (*Coraki*), Michael Lyons (*Sydney*), Noela Barnier,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Daniel Lawrence, Myra Slavic, Keith Smith, Deidre Cox, June Ianna, Mary Grant, Raymond Grant, Bill Condon Jnr,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Ron, Aileen and Greg Thomas, Jim Walsh, Boleslaw Jarzynski, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Fabian Okeke, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.

**AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL:** Maureen Borthistle (Dalby), Kevin Sullivan, Sr Moria (Bathurst), Father Bob Bossini (Fairfield), Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kelly Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Beryl Reed, Daphne Sweeney (*mother of Sr Kathryn*), Vince Newman, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre (*Ireland*), Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Syd*), Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Knightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2025**

<b>17th February</b>	<b>Monday 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Taizé</b> 45 min of simple praise, meditation & music
<b>18th February</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>18th February</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>Devotion to the Holy Face, Lennox Head</b>
<b>19th February</b>	<b>Wednesday 8.00 am</b>	<b>menAlive Lennox Head</b>
<b>25th February</b>	<b>Monday 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Crowley Care Auxiliary AGM</b>
<b>2nd March</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish cuppa</b>
<b>5th March</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>7th March</b>	<b>Friday 9.30 am SFX Church Ballina</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>

**Fruits of the Beatitudes:** If you 'sow' the "Beatitudes," you will 'reap' the "fruit of the Spirit." "God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him." Blessed are the hearts that can bend; they shall never be broken." "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting." <https://fruitsofthebeatitudes.org>

**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 —

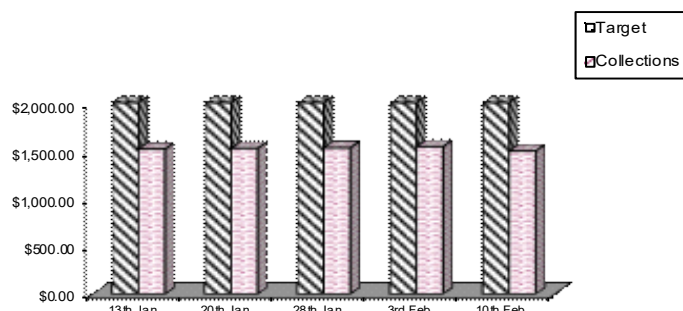
\***1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name

\***2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218 Please use your Planned Giving number as reference.

**DIF PAYS 4.15% 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**

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 766.05
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 432.50
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,495.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



### TO BE EVERGREEN WITH GOD

The banksia, unlike many other Australian native plant species, is not destroyed by bushfires. In fact, the fire's extreme heat and smoke helps it regenerate. The heat, as well as the chemicals from the smoke and ash, trigger the opening of the banksia's woody seed cases which releases the seeds within. These seeds are dispersed and subsequently germinate in rich soil. It is also significant to note that, in addition to its fire-resistant properties, the banksia trees are an important life-nourishing habitat for threatened species, such as black cockatoos, chuditch and western ringtail possums. The banksia's surprising impetus for growth and regeneration offer valuable insights for our own journeys through life.

A common thread running through this week's readings is God's invitation to us to grow into the fullness of life. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah describes those who trust in the Lord as being: "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream ... its leaves stay green." The psalm describes the one whose delight is in the law as being like: "a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."

The second reading speaks of Jesus' resurrection and the promise of ours. Our gospel reading reminds us that we shall be filled, nourished, satisfied, and brimming with joy, whatever adversities we might face.

While it may be easy to respond positively to continual growth when life is going well, it is often difficult to remain hopeful when we encounter life's crushing experiences. How do we continue to tap into God, the source of our lives, when hope seems lost or destroyed in life's bushfires?

Benedictine mystic Hildegard of Bingen used the term "viriditas," meaning God's greening power, to describe the divine life force. She explained that, deep within nature, there is the innate potential to grow towards the fullness of life, as well as a capacity for healing and wholeness. God invites us to open ourselves to this divine capacity each day. To be closed to growth is to be closed to God, the source of our life.

Jesus reminds us that "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Our capacity to heal, recover and grow, lies deep within each of us, although sometimes hidden from our eyes. Those who have experienced a major illness or other devastating experiences will appreciate this.

Iconographer Robert Lenz OFM explained that, when we try continually to keep moving towards God, even if we should fall, we fall *towards* God or even *into* God. Indeed, we are not defined by our failures and setbacks, but by our capacity for growth and greening, even when we fail.

In ordinary time, the liturgical colour, green, symbolises growth and hope. It reminds us of God's greening power. Amidst the ordinariness, the setbacks and the struggles of our daily lives, let us look towards God and to each other to remind us to continually be open to God. Within him, we are always evergreen.

Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2025



## ASPIRE

Young Adults Spiritual Formation  
with Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD  
for 18 - 35 years old

**6 March, Thursday**  
**3 April, Thursday**  
**21 May, Wednesday**  
**12 June, Thursday**  
**3 July, Thursday**  
**5 Aug, Tuesday**  
**11 Sept, Thursday**  
**2 Oct. Thursday**  
**20 Nov, Thursday**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**  
Zoom Login: 299 665 7662

For more information, contact:  
Sr. Di, CM 0405327153  
youth@lismore.catholic.org.au



**St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish** promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our parish community.

**Please continue to be mindful and respectful of each other and do not attend Mass if you are unwell or have any cold/flu-like symptoms.**



## World Day of Prayer 2025 Cook Islands

*'I made you wonderful'*



**Date and Time: FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am**  
**Location: St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina**  
**Contact person: Sue Hetherington**  
**: phn 0400 052 505**  
**Morning tea to follow.**



## 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 DIF 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: Jeremiah 17:5-8;**  
*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*

The Lord says this:  
‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,  
who relies on things of flesh,  
whose heart turns from the Lord.  
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:  
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,  
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,  
a salt land, uninhabited.  
‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,  
with the Lord for his hope.  
He is like a tree by the waterside  
that thrusts its roots to the stream:  
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,  
its foliage stays green;  
it has no worries in a year of drought,  
and never ceases to bear fruit.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

1. Happy indeed is the man  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorers,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**
2. He is like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R.)**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how  
can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the

dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been  
raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your  
sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ  
have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only,  
we are the most unfortunate of all people.  
But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-  
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.

***Alleluia!***

**Gospel: Luke 6:17,20-26**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of  
level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples  
with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and  
from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and  
Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their  
diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

*‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of  
God.*

*Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.*

*Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.*

*‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse  
you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son  
of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for  
then your reward will be great in heaven.*

*This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.*

*‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your  
consolation now.*

*Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.*

*Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.*

*‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you!*

*This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’*

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY MASSES**

**WEDNESDAY 19th ~ THURSDAY 20th ~ FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed  
in what they craved.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- This text is commonly known as the ‘Beatitudes’, from the Latin meaning ‘blessing’.
- Both Matthew and Luke report this famous sermon of Jesus, but with slight differences.
- The main difference is that Luke balances the ‘blessings’ with a series of ‘woes’ aimed at would-be disciples who are  
still bound up with the signs of success in this world.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

This week, repeat the response to the psalm often: *‘Happy are they who hope in the Lord’.*

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

**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 to our prayer gatherings.***