

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 of Easter
(B)**

5th May, 2024

Alleluia



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 MASSES

At St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES



BAPTISM Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Mackenzie Sidney, Mahli Grace and Huxley Daniel Carr** children of Jordan and Taylor.



PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS AND CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 19TH MAY ~ 9.00 am
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

Come dressed in the traditional clothes from your ancestral country and please bring a plate of traditional food to share for morning tea following Mass in the grounds of the Church.

Please share this invitation with your family members, neighbours and friends.

Parishioners new to our parish are warmly invited to attend.

Everyone is very welcome to this annual parish event.



PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of St Francis Xavier Church, **THIS Sunday 5th May**, following the 9.00 am Mass.
Our Parish Youth members will be hosts for the morning.
Everyone is very welcome.



'CONGRATULATIONS'

Margaret and Len Moore
who recently celebrated their
71st Wedding Anniversary.

With love and best wishes from your parish community.



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY ~ ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY LUNCHEON ~ THURSDAY 9TH MAY ~ CROWLEY ACTIVITY CENTRE ~ 12.30 TO 3.30 PM ~ BYO DRINKS ~ \$50 PP ~ RSVP @ CROWLEY RECEPTION.

(if you have dietary needs please advise when you register).
Tickets include delicious 3 course meal 1 x lucky door prize, live entertainment.

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS TUESDAY 10.00 AM
AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LENNOX HEAD.

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

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@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

ROSTER: Ascension of the Lord, Year B: 11th/12th May, 2024
Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	John Jarzynski Trish Bazar	Mark McDonald Emma McFadden	Nicole Sullivan Wendy Hughes	Richard Goss Maurice Gahan
EMOHC	Yvonne Head	Deacon Anthony	Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Margaret Ellis
Offertory Procession			Jo Hurley Joan Hollingsworth	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bishop Peter Ingham (*Wollongong*), Fabian Okeke (*father of Fr Anselm*), Hugo Long (*infant*), Patrick Connelley, John Joseph Hayter, Mick Maloney, Marie Smith, Marie Myers, Peter Mazzer, Travis Semmens (*Tas*),

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS

TIME: Ted Murphy, Bernard Evans, Aub Sainsbury Bishop John Carrol (2nd Bishop of Lismore), Joan Shumack

AND ALSO FOR: Marie Flood, Denzil Seabrook, Grant McCoy, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Marj & Pat Hobbins, 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: Tony Culican, Semmens family (*Tas*), Janice Ball, Michael Townsend, Barry O'Shea (*Dalby*), Peter Groom (*Dalby*), David Le'Fevre (*London*), Jackie Wotton, Gordan Albany (*Syd*), Geoff Johannes, Mary Howard, Hallie Butler (*infant*), Lynette Holland (*Tas*), Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Syd*), David Anderton, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunty Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Maree Doolan, 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

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024

5th May	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa
7th May	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
7th May Holy Family Church	Tuesday 10.00am	Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus
8th & 22nd May	Wednesday 8.00 am	menALIVE Lennox Head
9th May	Thursday 12.30 to 3.30 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Mothers' Day Lunch
19th May	Pentecost Sunday 9.00 am	Multicultural Mass & Celebration
1st June	Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30 pm	First Holy Communion

CLERGY RETREAT: The annual clergy retreat will be held from Monday 13th May to Friday morning 17th May. There will be no 12.00 noon Masses for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Adoration and Mass on Friday 17th May will be as normal.

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**

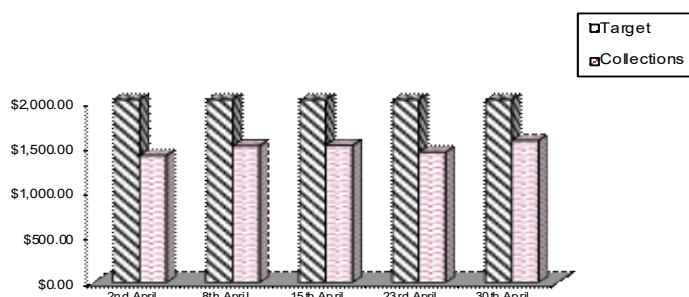
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card 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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 751.60
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 335.75
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,554.40
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



The offer of God's friendship

Parents often offer these words of encouragement and support to their children when they have to move to a new place or to a new school, "It will be alright; you will make new friends."

It can be difficult not only for children but for anyone to leave old friendships behind and to seek new friends. It reinforces the importance that we place on strong relationships, and the common bonds that develop through important milestones and junctures of our lives.

Many people enjoy friendships that start in primary school that last through university, careers, relationships, children and grandchildren. Lifelong friendships can be some of the most cherished and important things in our lives. Priceless treasures.

In today's gospel, Jesus offers us God's friendship. "I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you." With these words, Jesus reveals God's desire to have a different type of relationship with us. A relationship that is based on a deep, true and personal friendship.

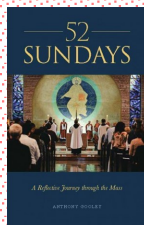
This relationship is about God being with us in the very ordinariness of our lives. In the marketplace, at the coffee shop, the park, the beach and, more importantly, in our homes. It is because in these locations that we normally catch up with our friends to share our thoughts and desires, God wants to have that kind of relationship with us too in these places.

God wants to establish a relationship that moves beyond worship and one that enters into deep, heartfelt and very real conversations. To move beyond sterile prayer halls and into the sometimes messiness and grey areas of our very human condition. Importantly, we should understand that in God wanting to be friends with us, there is a deep acceptance and understanding of our flawed person. A safe place where we can bare all with no fear of condemnation. A place where God is listening and accepting.

St Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists wrote extensively on this wonderful idea of God as a friend and these writings have been compiled into a book titled, *Praying to God as a Friend*. Despite the gospels revealing this more than 2000 years ago and St Alphonsus writing about this over 300 years ago, the notion of God as a friend is still a relatively novel idea today. But it's there, right in front of us in today's gospel.

God's friendship is waiting. It is truly priceless treasure that is freely offered and freely given. It is up to us to respond positively.

Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2024



52 SUNDAYS: A REFLECTIVE GUIDE TO THE MASS

BOOK LAUNCH:

All Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the book launch of Deacon Anthony's book,

52 Sundays: A Reflective Guide to the Mass.

The event will commence at 6.00 pm on Thursday 23rd May in the St Teresa Room, Parish Administration Building.

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD, will be the guest speaker.

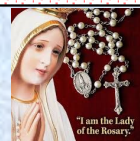
For catering purposes please RSVP by Wednesday 15th May to the Parish Office phone 6681 1048 or

email: admin@sfxballina.org.au Thank you.

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

and Sunday 7.00 am Lennox Head before 7.30 am Mass.



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

Marian Cenacle: Every Monday at 10.30 am—Anawim Room, Parish Admin Centre, Phn 6681 1048

Taizé: Every second Monday SFX Church 12.00 noon

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church.

Ballina CCR: Is in recess

You are welcome to our prayer gatherings.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you.

Contact the Safeguarding Office—Phone: **(02) 6621 9444** or Email: **safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au**



Tribunal of the Catholic Church : Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on 6622 7288 or Email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org

EASTER DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME: The Easter offering is an offering to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all in receipt of an income have an obligation to support the works of the Church through the Planned Giving Program, it is a responsibility of all of us to support the clergy, keeping in mind that they need to eat too. We offer this support by giving to the 1st collection on Sundays and through the Christmas and 'Easter Dues'. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others could place an offering in an envelope and write 'Easter Dues' on the outside. Thanks for your support. The offering does not go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.



Invest with peace of mind

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 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.

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48;*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm:*****(R.) The Lord has revealed to nations his saving power.***

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10*A reading from the first letter of St John*

My dear people, let us love one another
since love comes from God and everyone who loves is
begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

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

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!**Gospel: John 15:9-17***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in
his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and
your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for
his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not
call you servants any more, because a servant does not know
his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made
known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned
you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then
the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

*The Gospel of the Lord***FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES****TUESDAY 7th MAY**

Entrance Antiphon: Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to God, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and so enter into his glory, alleluia.

WEDNESDAY 8th MAY

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of your name to my kin, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, and have appointed you to go out and bear fruit,
fruit that will last, alleluia.

THURSDAY 9th MAY

Entrance Antiphon: O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them,
the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

FRIDAY 10th MAY

Entrance Antiphon: You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions and was raised again for our justification,
alleluia.

DID YOU KNOW? *In John's Gospel there is no account of the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Instead there is the account of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, an act of absolute service to others, and a long discourse of instruction on how they must conduct themselves in the future. This is known as the 'Farewell Discourse' and part of it is read this Sunday and next week.

MAKING CONNECTIONS *With your entry into the Church, you too have been commissioned to go out and bear fruit.
How are you feeling about this now? Are there any difficulties or struggles? Discuss your experiences so far.

* Take stock of your life, ask yourself how well you really follow the command Jesus gave us in today's gospel. Name one instance where service brings you into contact with others that are difficult to love.

REFLECTION:

*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth:
the Lord has freed his people, alleluia*

www.cam.org.au/summit