

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.**

**8th Sunday in
Ordinary Time C**

27th February, 2022

**Masks are no longer
mandatory**

'ALL 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**

***THIS THURSDAY 3RD
MARCH 12.00 NOON MASS
PARISH CATECHISTS
COMMISSIONING MASS
FOR THE NEW SCHOOL
YEAR* All welcome.**

Feast Days

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday

Autumn Ember Day

Friday



Blind to our own prejudice

Jesus confronts a very human reality, namely, the tendency to notice the failings of others while being blind to our own: "Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own?" The solution is also clearly stated by Jesus: "Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter in your brother's eye!"

This is related to what is sometimes called the "scapegoat syndrome", that is the even more insidious way humans place all responsibility for the world's ills onto others without taking any personal responsibility. On a global scale this is expressed in terms of racism whether directed to Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Africans, Asians, Indigenous people or others. The anti-Semitic attitudes of Nazis (and neo-Nazis) is a particular case in point resulting, as we know, with the extermination of millions of Jews.

The scapegoat syndrome is also alive and well in the theatre of Australian politics: it is always the 'other' political party rather than one's own that is attempting to destroy the Australian economy, ignore people's real needs and, if in government, will surely destroy our entire Australian way-of-life!

The scapegoating technique also works well in families, offices and market-place – just about anywhere human beings find themselves! When things go wrong, how quick we can be to name the 'other', the culprit rather than admit our own actions, attitudes and behaviours might have something to do with

the negative state of affairs. This is not to deny the reality that, sometimes, other people are to blame. But today Jesus is having us focus on the many more times we judge others while being blind to our own failings.

Significant among Jesus' miracles is the healing of blindness. Mark's account of Jesus' curing the blind man at Bethsaida is revealing in the way the process takes time. At first, the blind man sees, but only partially: "I see men walking around like trees." It is only when Jesus touches his eyes again that the man sees everything clearly [Mark 8: 22-26].

Curing spiritual blindness is also a process that takes time, effort and God's grace.

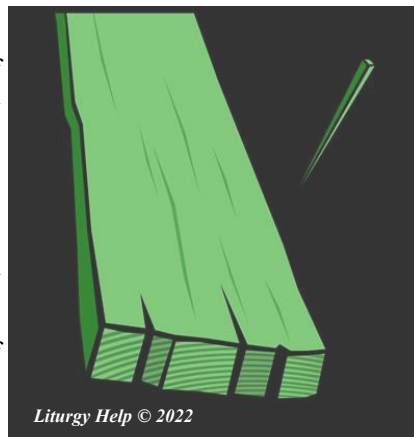
Yet, as with any disease, we must recognise the condition and want to be healed. There are still too many Australians refusing to admit our political policies and human attitudes to migrants and refugees are, in part, scapegoating mechanisms. We also have to reckon with our history which advocated a "White Australia Policy" and treated our Indigenous peoples so poorly.

We must stop the blame-game if we are to move towards genuine reconciliation and human goodness.

Jesus' other statement about the sound tree producing good fruit, and the rotten tree bad fruit, is compelling. We are called to ongoing conversion if we are to be cured of our own blindness and open our hearts to people who are 'other' and 'different' to ourselves.

Gerard Hall SM

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Liturgy Help © 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

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: June Ianna, Thea Berrell,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Catherine Deidre Cox, Guerrino Gardiman
AND ALSO FOR: 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: Tony Smith, Anna, Kerry Jones, Sr Therese Dougherty pbvm, 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 Kolbach, Samantha Anderson, Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Names of those who are ill will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

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: TBA

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.

REVISED NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

- **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 may be maintained if practical**
- **Density limits are not mandatory**
- **If unwell please stay home until you feel well again.**

Thank you.

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 (1st collection).

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

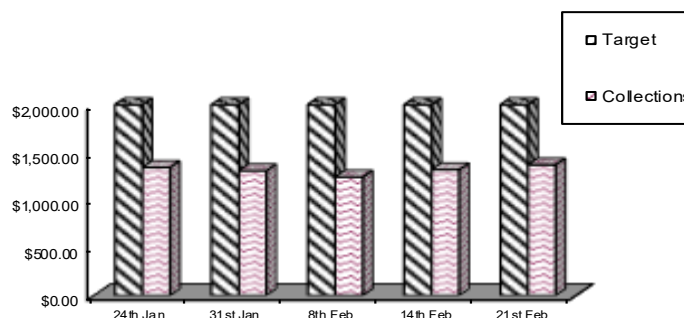
Father Peter and Father Anselm

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

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 634.80
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 277.45
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,369.00
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.



ASH WEDNESDAY
This Wednesday 2nd March 2022
MASS TIMES - ST FRANCIS XAVIER
CHURCH BALLINA
12.00 noon and 6.00 pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
each **Friday** evening during Lent - **5.30 pm**
SFX Church Ballina. **Beginning 11th March.**



CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

There will be **no** Auxiliary meetings until further notice. This Monday's meeting 28th February is cancelled. **Thank you. Helen Cooney President**



PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM for 2022

Theme: 'REMEMBER'
Beginning Next Tuesday
8th March

When : Tuesdays @ 9.30 am.

Where : Upper Room, Parish Admin Centre.

Registrations: Please phone or email the Parish Admin Centre 6681 1048

Email: admin@sfxballina.org.au

Books will be \$8.00 each,
available from the Parish Office

Please register for this combined parish gathering to prepare for Easter.

Morning tea will be supplied each Tuesday.

LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES IN THE CATHEDRAL

From Sunday February 27th, livestreaming of the 9.00 am Mass will recommence.

It may be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. Attendance at these Masses is with the understanding that an audio and video recording may be made publicly available.

For more information please call Joe Pereira,
Diocesan Director of Communications on 0492 889 193



BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALKS The Spirituality of St John of the Cross

St John of the Cross teaches us how to live authentically in the real world and in the presence of God. He shows us how to love and how to pray.

Bishop Greg's talks will be held on Thursdays and will begin at 6.00 pm in St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore.

Thursdays 3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March. It will be live on the YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDiocesAU>
All are most welcome!

ORGAN CONCERT—CHRISTOPHER WRENCH Saturday 5th March at 5.00 pm

St Mary's Anglican Church, Ballina. Entry by donation.

Booking recommended: 6686 2094 or email
music@anglicanballina.com.au

CATHOLICS FORGETTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FUNERAL MASS/LITURGY

The Catholic funeral is at the heart of who we are as Catholics – a people gathered, saved, and redeemed by Christ our risen Lord! The Catholic funeral is a witness to a secular world that there is a greater context to both life and death. The Church teaches that "deceased members of the Christian faithful must be given ecclesiastical funerals according to the norm of law." (**Canon 1176**) Sadly, secularism is taking away this important aspect of our Christian life. We today in an alarming situation are witnessing that practicing Catholics are not having funeral Masses/liturgy. This is a great loss and mistake.

This might be the decision of the deceased family members who are not Catholics. The choice of a family to forego all things "Catholic" for a funeral because they are not or no longer Catholic even though the deceased was Catholic and was sincere in practicing his or her faith is unfair to the deceased. It is important to note! A funeral should respect who a person is and a person's faith tradition is an essential component of who one is and the hope we have as Christians.

The parish has recently released some guidelines to help you organize the funeral of your loved ones with the local Funeral Directors. For more information please contact the parish office.

PROJECT COMPASSION 'FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS'



Lent starts this week with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for trying to see more clearly as we prepare for Easter. Through prayer, we try to focus on God. Through fasting, we focus on our own emptiness or deeper hungers. Through alms giving, we

focus on those who need support to flourish. For fifty years or so, a great way to do this has been through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year the theme **For All Future Generations**, comes from the moment God established an everlasting covenant in the Book of Genesis. Let us honour the divine commitment to every living creature working with Project Compassion for a more just world.

St Pauls reminds us today to 'keep on working at the Lord's work.' Perhaps that can be our resolution for Lent.

Project Compassion envelopes and money boxes are now available in the pews of the church, or from the Parish Office.

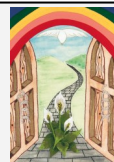
From Caritas Australia lent.caritas.org.au



2022 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
UNITING CHURCH BALLINA
THIS Friday ~ 4th March 2022
9.30 am

Theme ~ 'I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU'

Host Country ~ Wales, Northern Ireland, England
You are very welcome to attend.



Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: Mondays 10.30 am St Teresa Room, Parish Administration

Parish Youth Group: Saturday, 6.00 pm Vigil Mass then Youth Group in Upper Room until 8.30 pm.

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church

Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head: 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.



First Reading: Sir 27:4-7;

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:54-58

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank

God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk : 6:39:45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Single Again

A 10 week online Beginning Experience programme "Coping with life alone" is scheduled to commence on **5th March to 14 May, 2022.**

The programme is for those who are now widowed, separated or divorced, as a first step in the recovery process.

The programme is run by Beginning Experience Singapore. Register your interest at: tinyurl.com/be-sg-cwla

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 (02) 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

Quote for Lent: "O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."
Henri Nouwen

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 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.