

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.

Ascension of the Lord (A)

21st May, 2023

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 MASS

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon**

RECONCILIATION

9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church

Feast Days

St Rita of Cascia

Monday

Our Lady, Help of Christians

Wednesday

St Bede,

St Gregory,

St Mary Magdalene

Thursday

St Philip Neri

Friday

We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

PARISH NOTICES

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



SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Jocelyn (Joy) Platt-Hepworth** who has sadly passed away.

A funeral Prayer Service will be held this **Tuesday 23rd May at 10.00 am** in St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

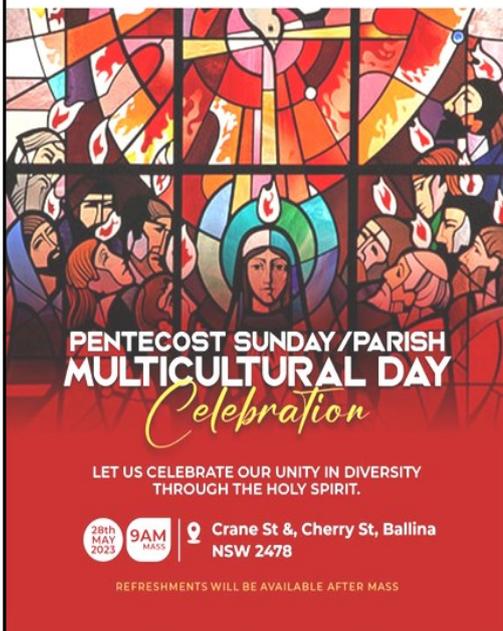


CROWLEY CARE AUXILIARY

Crowley Auxiliary meeting will be held **THIS Monday 22nd May 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!**



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH BALLINA



**PENTECOST SUNDAY / PARISH
MULTICULTURAL DAY
Celebration**

LET US CELEBRATE OUR UNITY IN DIVERSITY
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

28th MAY 2023 9AM MASS
Crane St &, Cherry St, Ballina
NSW 2478

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER MASS



PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS AND CELEBRATION NEXT SUNDAY

**28TH MAY 9.00 am Mass
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 after Mass in the grounds of the Church. Please share this invitation with your family members, neighbours and friends. **Your participation is warmly welcomed.**

PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS SATURDAY EVENING DINNER IN LENNOX HEAD

Lennox Head Bowling Club ~ 6.30 pm
Next Saturday 27th May
No need to book
Everyone welcome.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27TH MAY TO 3RD JUNE

NATIONAL SORRY DAY FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023



CLAIM THE DATE: 'Come together' Parish Spring Lunch ~ Sunday 10th September, 2023. Further information to follow.

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 (*long service leave*)

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke (*acting parish administrator*)

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

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

ROSTER: Pentecost Sunday, Year A: 27th/28th May, 2023
Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 103; 1Cor 12:3-7,12-13; John 20:19-23

	Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 7.30 am Lennox Head	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	<i>John Jarzynski Trish Bazar</i>	<i>Damien Kennedy Jean MacKay</i>	<i>Annette Reen Gemma Duffy</i>	<i>Warwick Manning Maxine Cole</i>
EMOHC	Katrina Miles		<i>Margaret Tay Cathy Campbell</i>	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			<i>C J & Family</i>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Dorothy Preddey (Sydney), Yvonne Williamson, Fr John Chambers, Fr Eddie Welling, Jocelyn (Joy) Platt-Hepworth, Denzil Seabrook, Martin Russell,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Josefa Jarzynski, Bill Parsons, Ron Hanlon
AND ALSO FOR: *Kath and Kevin Hankinson, 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, 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: John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Elizabeth Walsh (*Ireland*) Virginia Kohlbach and family, Anne Jackson, Michael Hains, Ronald Windall, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*) Tanya White, Isabel Margarita Jorquera, Carlos Solar, Joan Flew, Tony Smith, Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*), Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Aoife Stephenson (*Brisbane*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunty* 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.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS ~ 2023		
22nd May	Monday 3.00 pm	Crowley Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
23rd May	Tuesday 10.00 am	Cherry Coffee Club
24th May	Wednesday 10.00 to 11.30 am 7.00 to 8.30 pm	Journey through the Bible
27th May	Saturday 6.30 pm	Parishioner Dinner at Lennox Head Bowling Club
28th May	Pentecost Sunday 9.00 am	Parish Multi-Cultural Day Celebration
4th June	Sunday 9.45 am	Parish Cuppa St Francis Xavier Church Grounds
23rd July	Sunday 10.00 am - 3.00 pm	Women's Reflection Day
10th September	Sunday 12.00 noon	Parish Spring Lunch Cherry Street Bowling Club

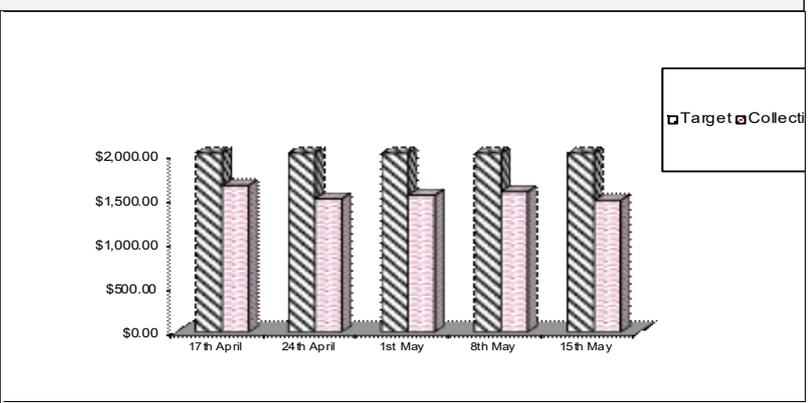
THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter 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 3.20% 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	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 950.95
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 625.85
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,471.70
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



Forty days after Easter, when we celebrated Jesus' resurrection, today we celebrate his ascension into heaven and to the right hand of the Father. Artists throughout the centuries have imagined the scene: the disciples staring upwards as the Risen Jesus is lifted up before them and disappears into the clouds. Their last glimpse of him is his feet as he disappears from sight. Jesus' ascension marks the definitive ending of his previous mode of life among us. How strange, at first thought, that we celebrate his departure from us. Would we not greatly prefer to have him stay with us, to enjoy his being among us. But in his ascension, he departs from us. He is out of sight now, no longer bodily among us, having vanished from visibly earthly existence.

And yet, the great mystery of the Ascension is that, with the completion of his mission – his life, death, resurrection and ascension and return to the Father – he is now, as never before, with us - and with each and every generation of believers, present to us in every moment. He is still God with us, Emmanuel. He is indeed more perfectly and completely present to us in each moment of our lives than in his earthly life.

The Evangelist, Matthew, brings his gospel to conclusion in today's gospel reading, but not directing our gaze to Jesus ascending into the clouds. Indeed, Matthew doesn't actually mention Jesus' ascension. Matthew focuses instead on Jesus' final words, his commissioning of the disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Jesus' mission is thus extended to all the nations, through us, his disciples. His mission is now our mission, the Church's mission.

Last of all, Matthew repeats Jesus' comforting assurance, that "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus had also promised them that he would not leave us orphans (Jn 14:18). He would send the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, to inspire, guide and counsel us. Next week, fifty days after Easter, we will celebrate Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Church later came to understand that Mary must also have shared the experience of the Ascension, rising bodily to heaven. In August we will celebrate her Assumption into heaven. Here indeed is the meaning to today's feast for each and every one of us: it is our destiny to enter heaven too.

So it is that the Letter to Ephesians exhorts us today: "know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe."

Anne Hunt © Majellan Media 2023

**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK
BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS.**

The theme encourages all Australians to be a **voice for reconciliation** in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we **live, work and socialise**. For the work of **generations past**, and the benefit of **generations future**, act today for a more **just, equitable and reconciled country for all**.

National Reconciliation Week – **27th May to 3rd June** – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Quote: "Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future."

**PARISH 'CUPPA' in the grounds of
St Francis Xavier Church,
Sunday 4th June, following the 9.00 am
Mass. *Everyone is very welcome.***

Aid to the Church in Need has launched their "**Nigeria: Young, Faithful, Crucified**" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ.

To watch testimonies visit: aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: **Ring: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or go to www.palms.org.au**

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: Monday 11.00 am St Teresa Room Parish Admin Centre.

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

Parish Youth Group: 6.30 pm Saturday evening, Upper Room Parish Admin Centre following 5.30 pm Vigil Mass.

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, contact Maxine Cole on 0429 669 029

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

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 1:1-11*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Mt 28-16-20***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS ~ TUESDAY 23RD MAY**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the first and the last, I was dead and am now alive. Behold, I am alive for ever and ever, alleluia.**Communion Antiphon:** The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all I have told you, says the Lord, alleluia.**WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY ~ FEAST OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS****Entrance Antiphon:** Who is this arising like the dawn, fair as the moon, resplendent as the sun, terrible as an army with banners.**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, by the Lord God Most High, above all women on the earth; for he has so exalted your name, that your praise shall be undying on our lips.**THURSDAY 25TH MAY ~ FEAST OF MARY MAGDELENE****Entrance Antiphon:** Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent, who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ, alleluia.**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; come out to meet Christ the Lord, alleluia.**FRIDAY 26TH MAY ~ FEAST OF ST PHILIP NERI****Entrance Antiphon:** The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us. alleluia.**Communion Antiphon:** As the Father loves me, so I also love you; remain in my love, alleluia.

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL: MAKING CONNECTIONS: The word 'apostle' comes from the Greek word meaning 'one who is sent out'. Jesus sends his apostles out to continue to preach the good news to the entire world. This recalls for us the 'sending out' which occurs at the end of our Mass: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. We, too, are sent to bring the truth of the gospel into our daily actions and decisions and thus give witness to the faith we profess.

- 'Know that I am with you always.' In what ways do sense the presence of Jesus in yourself, in the Church and in the world?
- 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.' How do you see your role in this great work of the Church? How can you bring the life of Christ to others?
- As you near the completion of your time with the RCIA, recall what it was which first drew you to wanting to become a disciple of Jesus. Share your reflections on how you now feel about your decision. Reflect on your way forward in the life of faith.
- Give witness to your faith this week by living the way of Christ: do not judge others, act with humility, respond to the needs of others, pray often.

'Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Memorise this verse to help you in times of doubt or distress.