

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



**St Francis Xavier Church,
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,
Ballina**

welcome

**Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.**

Baptism of the Lord Year B

10th January, 2021



Parish Weekend Mass Times St Francis Xavier Church Ballina

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm
Sunday — 9.00 am
Sunday — 11.00 am**

Holy Family Church Lennox Head

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm
Sunday—7.30 am**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND a
weekend Mass by phoning
6681 1048
or use the QR codes located on
the doors of both Churches**

WEEKDAY MASS:

**At St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY to FRIDAY
12.00 noon**

**Please register with Parish Office
or use the QR codes on the doors
of the Church**

**RECONCILIATION
9.00 am Saturday
St Francis Xavier Church**

The lights are always on

Christmas is an exciting time. Putting up the Christmas tree, buying presents for loved ones and friends, and enjoying a sumptuous feast is cause for great joy. But it's a different story when the season for gift giving and merry making comes to an end. It can feel like an onerous chore to pack the decorations away for another year.

The buzz and the anticipation are missing. Without all the sparkle and lights, our homes and even the local supermarket seem devoid of colour and excitement. But Christmas doesn't have to end ...

and it is not meant to end. Though the church's Christmas liturgical season ends this Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Christmas itself does not end. This is because, at its very core, Christmas celebrates the incarnation of God as a human person, that God took on human form to live among us as one of us. God wanted to show us how much God wanted to be with us and to be one of us. Though the Christmas season officially ends, God continues that close relationship with us.

This calls us to transform the external celebration of the Christmas season with all its sparkle and lights into an internal celebration that occurs every day of our lives. This is the Christmas gift that keeps giving, because God wants to grow into an ever deeper and closer relationship with us. This is the

eternal light that continues to shine deep in the centre of our lives. It is a relationship that is the source of joy, hope and love. We are invited to bring that joy, hope and love onward to grow into better relationships with one another.

So, while the Christmas tree has come down and the decorations and the fairy lights are now neatly stored away in their boxes, Christmas itself is still waiting to be unboxed, to be unboxed in our spirits, in our hearts and in our lives. Faith, hope and love

are not meant to be stored away, but to be shared and celebrated with others. Though the manger may be stored away, the living God is still very much with us. Christmas does not end, but continues to be around us and inside us.

Baptisms are about new beginnings and, just as Jesus entered a new beginning in his human life when he underwent baptism by

his cousin John the Baptist, we too are invited to set out anew in new beginnings in our relationships with others. Christmas does not end, but continues in our lives and in the lives of others, forever bringing new life, starting new beginnings, with God ever present in our midst.

Mark Chia CSsR
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Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship .

**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 PASTORAL COUNCIL:
PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Group Coordinator: Amelia Kearney

Email: parishcouncil@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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Mick O'Brien (*brother of Carmel*), William Woods (*father of Father Peter Woods*), John Brophy, Peter Podgorczyk, Margaret Pyne, Greg Sutherland

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Stan Parry, Greg Ellis, Father Tony Casey, Margaret Bermingham,

AND ALSO FOR: *Beatrice Flood, Dec'd members of Flood, Cooper, Lynch & Howard families, Fay Kerlake, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: John McCoy, Cathy Campbell, Meg O'Mara, Greg Shore, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Kath Hankinson, Patricia Evans, Barbara Smith, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Kath Young, Pauline McLachlan, Michael Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, Glenn Campbell, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby, Jeanie Marie Curry, Darryl Simpkins, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged*

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.

Under the current restrictions of 2 square metres people to sit in pews marked with X. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: TBA CONFIRMATION: TBA RECONCILIATION: 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.

HOSPITAL: If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Register prior to attending Mass is preferred by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
 - QR check-in is also available.
 - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
 - **Sit on crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules of 2 square metres (*families can sit together*).
 - **Singing** within the body of our Churches is prohibited by NSW Health authorities unless you wear a mask (and endorsed by our Bishop).
 - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
 - Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
 - You are very welcome to our places of worship.
- Thank you.



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

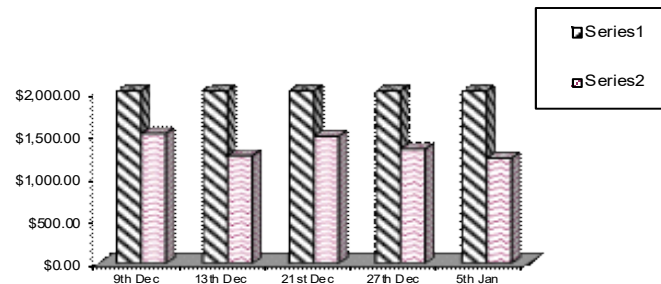
MASKS: It is recommended by State Government and endorsed by Bishop Greg to wear a mask while at Mass.

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**

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 433.40
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 220.40
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,219.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



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

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.

Parish Notices

PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH. THANK YOU.



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Oliver and Finn Steenhuisen** sons of Dylan and Pippa.



THANK YOU to all who volunteered at our Masses over Christmas and New Year. To those who marked off names at the doors of our Churches, to those who read and assisted with Holy Communion, the musicians who played and our ladies who arranged the beautiful flowers on the church altars. Your support of the parish in this time of Covid is greatly appreciated.

CATECHISTS MATTER Volunteers NEEDED for 2021

An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools?

Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Pauline Shay Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0405 448 592.

Please give some thought to this important invitation. You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **John Brophy** who recently passed away. John's funeral has taken place.

BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS LIVE ON YOUTUBE

You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am



An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. melbournecatholic.org.au



HAPPY '60th' BIRTHDAY TONY PADEN

Tony celebrated this special birthday on Thursday.

Love and Best Wishes from all the Parish.

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00 am to 11.45 am every Friday
Cenacle Marian Movement of Priests: Is in recess.
Ballina CCR resume Monday 1st February
Prayer of the Church and Rosary will resume Saturday 6th February.
Parish Youth Group: is in recess

May There Be Peace Within

*May you trust your highest power that you are exactly where you are meant to be ...
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you ...
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us ...*

Author Unknown.

REFLECTION: With this feast, the Christmas cycle comes to a close. It expands the universality of God's presence proclaimed on the Epiphany and locates it in the messianic mission of Jesus established at his baptism. It might be seen as the summary of the entire liturgical cycle: the one born among us is the servant of God who brings to all the nations a universal promise of justice and the fulfilment of hope.

Jesus is mysterious servant through whom God's saving action is accomplished. He is the light that guides those in darkness. He has been given to the nations as the promise of liberation and the hope of the age to come. His mission is directed to all peoples. Since God's voice spoke over creation and over the head of Jesus as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, God's regeneration of nature is accomplished in and through him.

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus is commissioned to begin his prophetic work and ministry, a work of inclusivity and the relinquishment of bondage and fear. As the heavens opened, Jesus was identified as the beloved one of God. Now the community of believers is identified with Jesus the servant of God. Through Baptism, Christians share in his prophetic and divine ministry. They too receive at baptism a commission to commit themselves to the service of the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a reminder of the call to Christian service.

© Dianne Bergent CSA *Liturgy Help*

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7;
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of
right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and
light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any na-

tionality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:7-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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 account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

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DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.