

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.

The Baptism of the Lord Year C

9th January, 2022



**QR check-in is
mandatory
Please wear a mask**

'ALL WELCOME'

**Weekend Mass Times
Ballina**

St Francis Xavier Church

184 people per Mass

Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm

Sunday — 9.00 am

Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

70 people per Mass

Saturday Vigil—5.00pm

Sunday—7.30 am

PLEASE QR IN UPON ARRIVAL

**Manual registration is also
provided.**

WEEKDAY MASS:

at St Francis Xavier Church

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

12.00 noon

**Register with NSW QR codes or
manual registration sheets.**

RECONCILIATION

**9.00 am Saturday ~ Ballina
St Francis Xavier Church**

Feast Day

St Hilary ~ Thursday

Inspired by the baptism of fire

Today marks a turning point in the liturgical year when we move out of the Christmas festive season into Ordinary Time.

We mark that turning point with the gospel account of a major turning point in Jesus' life and in salvation history. It comes with the Baptism of Our Lord. For Jesus, his baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

For salvation history, his baptism heralds the coming of a new age, a new era. Gone now is the era of the Old Testament, when the people of Israel, guided by the Law and the prophets, waited with great hope and expectation for the coming of the Messiah and the liberation that he would bring. He was come now.

Jesus, however, wasn't the saviour they were expecting. For a while, John the Baptist looked like the one. But John had no doubts. He recognised Jesus as the Lamb of God, and proclaimed that "He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Jesus' baptism culminates with the appearance of the Holy Spirit, descending on Jesus "in bodily shape, like a dove" and a voice from heaven proclaiming: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

The references to the Holy Spirit remind us of two other significant moments in salvation history. Firstly, in the story of creation in Genesis 1, the Holy Spirit hovered over the earth when it was formless void and shrouded in darkness, and heaven and earth were then

completed with all their vast array.

Secondly, in the story of Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9), it is a dove which brings the good news of the end of the Flood, a new start, a new creation. This then is to say that to be baptised with the Holy Spirit is to make a new start, to be renewed and re-created. It means a major turning point in our lives.

But John the Baptist proclaims that the baptism which Jesus brings is not only with the Holy Spirit but with fire. This reference to fire reminds us of the tongues of flame that descended on the apostles at Pentecost and that inspired them to go forth fearlessly and preach the gospel to the whole world.

So too does the fire of baptism inspire and urge us. Know too, however, that the fire will also divide us, exposing the division between those who accept and those who reject the offer of salvation and the demands of the Kingdom.

The gospel account of the baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own

baptism when we were made into sons and daughters of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and commissioned to spread the good news of Jesus' coming and the gift of God's grace in the world. Let us give thanks and take heed from Titus who urges us in today's first reading to give up everything that does not lead to God and have no ambition but to do good.

Anne Hunt

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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

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: Alane Atangana-Etoundi,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Mick O'Brien, Shane O'Brien, Stan Parry,
 Father Tony Casey

AND ALSO FOR: *Glorie Kelly, 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: Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Joan Flew, Reg Miller, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (*Sydney*), Noro Ruben Mazzorch, Dorothy Preddey (*Sydney*), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Kathleen Campbell, Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (*Caloundra*), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, 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 Kolhbach, 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.

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

CONFIRMATION: TBA **RECONCILIATION:** 22nd March, 2022. **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.

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

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

NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

- **Covid-19 check-in is mandatory for places of worship.**
- **Manual registration is available, place your name and contact on sheet provided**
- **Please wear a mask while indoors**
- **Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only**
- **Singing by choir only**
- **2sq metre density limit while seated—Social distancing of 1.5m when standing where possible and practical**
- **If unwell please stay home until you feel better**



Any amended public health orders that come into place will be followed.

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.

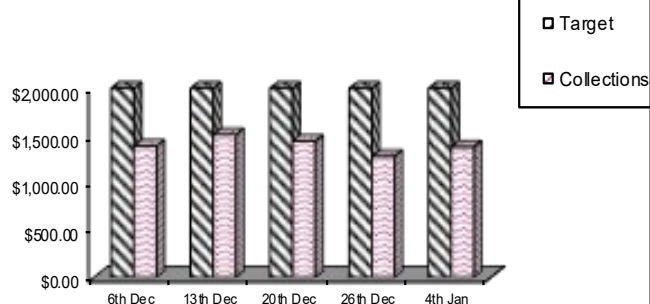
Father Peter and Father Anselm

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	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 573.30
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 308.75
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,378.00
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.

Parish Notices

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



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:

Macauley Edward Lloyd son of Christopher and Holly-Mae.



THANK YOU to all who volunteered at our Masses over Christmas. To those who read and assisted with Holy Communion, the musicians who played, our door greeters and our ladies who arranged the beautiful flowers on the church altars. Thank you also, to our Covid cleaners who ensured our Churches were Covid Safe for the use of parishioners and visitors. Your support of the parish over the Christmas Season and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.



CATECHISTS MATTER
Volunteers NEEDED for 2022
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 Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1213 Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

I. WHAT IS THIS SACRAMENT CALLED?

1214 This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek baptizein) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolises the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."

1215 This sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God."
from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

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

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am Friday

Sisterhood: is in recess

Parish Youth Group: is in recess

Ballina CCR : is now in recess until 31/01/2022

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 at 9.00 am

SINCERE SYMPATHY



Our parish extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Alane Atangana-Etoundi** aged 19 years. Alane tragically drowned off the beach at Lennox Head before Christmas.

The funeral for Alane was held on Friday in St Francis Xavier Church.

REFLECTION : Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

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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. All enquiries: Please phn 6621 7288 or Email: tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: is in recess until Saturday 5th February 2022

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: 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: Tit 2:11-14, 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness

and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

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: Luke 3:15-16,21-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

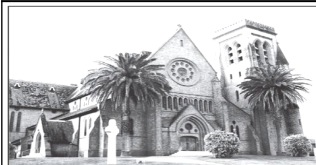
Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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**



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.