

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



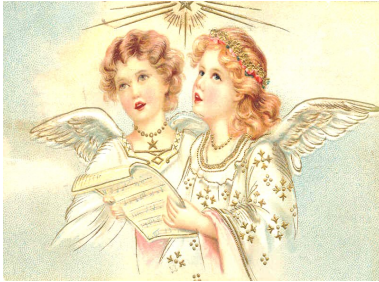
**St Francis Xavier Church,
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,
Ballina**

welcome

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

Christmas Year A

25th December, 2022



*As we celebrate
Christmas 2022
may you know in
your heart
the peace and joy
of Christ.*



Bishop Greg's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

2022 has been a difficult challenging year for us all. Floods, displacement, loss of property, and the fear of another flood have so occupied us that, at times, we lost the joy of life and the appreciation of each other.

The year is drawing to a close, Christmas and New Year are upon us. The Feast of Jesus' birth and the festive season mark the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. Each year at Christmas, we celebrate a new beginning. Jesus is born as a little baby and in this carries the hopes of the human race.

For all eternity the heart of God has been crying out and longing for you and me. We are so often hard of heart and do not respond to God's desire. At this time of the year as Advent disappears into Christmas our hearts begin to fill with hope and the desire for love and friendship. Our hearts begin to mirror the unbounded desire of God. Our emptiness longs to be filled. On Christmas day the heart of God the Father and our hearts meet. These hearts meet in the Child Jesus who carries the hopes of the world.

Let us gaze on the Child, in whom God and humans are united.

He is our hope, our future and our life.



With my Christmas prayers
and wishes,

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD



BISHOP of LISMORE
— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —

Kosanna in the Highest

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

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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Betty Chandler, Marilyn Lannan ,
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Alane Atangana-Etundi, Beatrice Flood, Jack & Marie Flood, Kitty Tyler, William (Podge) Holwell, Camilla McCoy, Maureen O'Connor, Irene Kearney

AND ALSO FOR: *Jim Walsh, Mary Casey, Peter O'Connor, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerlake, 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, Hugo Long (*infant Brisbane*), Carmel Hackett, Michael Harris, Kristine Bannerman, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson *1 yr (Brisbane)*, David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dympna 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.* (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.)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT THIS YEAR
TO EMPOWER THE WORLD'S MOST MARGINALISED AND
VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES
OF POVERTY TODAY, AND TO CREATE CHANGE FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW.**



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS
From Caritas Australia**

The Spirit of Christmas

Every December 25th a child lying in straw brings us to a stop - and jolts us to recognise what is most important in life: our loved ones, our family and friends - and our loving God who holds us 'in the palm of his hand'.

Christmas love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. *Church Resources*



~ A CHRISTMAS PRAYER ~

by Robert Louis Stevenson



Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May this Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!



DIF PAYS 1.75% 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

HAPPY and a HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

*Our prayer is that the year 2023 may be brighter, hopeful,
and happier! Thank you all for your greetings and support.
Have a wonderful Christmas. Fr Peter and Fr Anselm*



WELCOME Every Christmas the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem invites us to stop –and to pay attention to the things that are especially important in our lives: our loved ones, our family and friends - and our loving God who holds us in existence, ‘in the palm of his hand’. When Christmas is over, an excellent way to grow in faith and to develop one’s relationship with God is to join in the celebration of the Mass on Sundays, here in our local community.
You will be most welcome!



'SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON, HER FIRST-BORN.'

Somehow, Jesus, your birth has something to do with the whole world. Caesar calls a worldwide census—and it comes to this!
The story of your birth is so much a fairytale. The story line never snags: They came from Nazareth ... no room at the inn ... a manger instead ... she wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes ... the angels sang to shepherds ... they visit the new-born king. Peace and goodwill be towards all men and women. This is how the world should be.

I have a favour to ask you, tiny baby. Help me to believe. My heart is a crib, and, fascinated, I watch you there. Sin and pain and death don't matter when God has entered their skin. Like the shepherds, I tremble to hope. If only I could leave that crib and take your truth with me. This life-transforming gift I ask of you. Amidst all that happens this Christmas, I hope you'll come to stay. *Source: Madonna Magazine*

Parish Notices



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Betty Chandler** who has sadly passed away. Requiem Mass was held on Thursday 22nd December in St Francis Xavier Church.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

To contact a priest over the holiday period please call the Presbytery mobile **0423 445 639**.

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

CHRISTMAS DUES ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THIS TIME

The Christmas Offering is made to the Bishop and clergy of the diocese. In the same way as all those 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 first collection on Sundays and through Christmas and Easter Dues. Those with Planned Giving envelopes will find a special envelope in the box, and others can place an offering in an envelope and write “Christmas Dues” on the outside. By the way, the offering doesn't go to individual priests, but is added to the overall Clergy Fund collections for the whole year for the whole diocese.

Thank you for your support.

ENVELOPES CAN BE PLACED ON THE COLLECTION PLATES AT ANY WEEKEND MASS.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS READINGS

FIRST READING: Is 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the
hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand
of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My
Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord
takes delight in you and your land will have its wed-
ding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one
who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices
in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONORIAL PSALM:

Response *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish
your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through
all ages.' **(R.)**
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the
rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' **(R.)**

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SECOND READING Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS READINGS:

FIRST READING: Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

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.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. ***(R.)***

SECOND READING: Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit every-

the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:Mt 1:18-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

thing and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

