

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 B

25th December, 2020



*As we celebrate
Christmas 2020
may you know in
your heart
the peace and joy
of Christ.*



Christmas Message



Dear beloved Parishioners,

What a year we have had! Who could have imagined by this time last year that the whole world would have had to face a Pandemic and that ringing the parish office to book in for mass would become a norm? Truly, it has been very challenging in so many ways, that we had to change our ways of life to ensure health and safety for all. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the people of this parish have endured testing times with courage, faith, and compassion.

The good news of our faith is that during tumultuous times, God's love still overshadows the power of darkness. At Christmas, Jesus comes to bring the light that shines over us. As we joyfully celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas. At "this most wonderful time of the year" we would like to thank all parishioners for the kindness, support, love, and generosity shown to us in so many ways over the year. A word of gratitude goes to the parish staff and volunteers who give abundantly of their time, resources, and talents in making our parish a faith-filled community. You have immensely helped us in navigating strongly through the storms of this past year.

Jesus has come to visit us with no border restrictions, He is with us regardless of social distancing. While we might not like to dwell so much on the difficult times and frustrations of 2020, we would like to move positively with faith, hope, and love, into 2021. May God be with us as we go forward.



Our prayer is that the year 2021 may be brighter, hopeful, and happier!

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Fr Peter and Fr Anselm

Gloria in the Highest

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Podgorczyk, Margaret Pyne, Greg Sutherland
THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: John O'Mara, Jack Waller, Beatrice Flood, Jack & Marie Flood, Irene Kearney, Kitty Tyler, William (Podge) Holwell, Camillia McCoy
AND ALSO FOR: *Hilton Kelly, Raymond Peacock, Faye Kerslake, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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: Meg O'Mara, Greg Shore, Shandelle Judd (*Darwin*), Tony Reynolds, Rose Norris, Elsie Evans (*infant*), 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, Jan Kelly, 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, Mick O'Brien, 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 Care.* (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

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. Please observe the 2 square metre social distancing while in our Churches. 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.

GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Ensure you register prior to attending any Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
 - QR check-ins are also available
 - Your name is marked off our daily list before entering the Church.
 - ***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 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.



Prayer before Christmas Dinner

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have
blessed us this day.

We are grateful to each of those who are gathered around this table.
We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who
are not with us today.

In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives
and pray for those who are without enough to eat.

We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who
have no place to live.

We remember your challenging message of caring and giving.

Church Resources



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

HAPPY and a HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL IN 2020



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!

~ 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 the 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!



Parish Notices

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE will re-open on Monday 4th January 2021. To contact a priest over the holiday period please call the Presbytery mobile **0423 445 639**.

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 IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED

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 wedding.

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.

RESPONSORIAL 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

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

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:

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.

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 everything 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.