

# 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.**

**Easter Sunday  
(A)**

**12th April, 2020**



**FROM FATHER PETER  
AND  
FATHER ANSELM**

**Parishioners please be  
assured of our prayers as we  
comply with the  
government's  
restrictions with social  
distancing.  
Every day in our private  
Masses we pray that the  
parish community will be safe  
from the COVID-19 virus, and  
that our way of life and the  
freedom to attend our Parish  
Masses will resume in the near  
future.**

**'We are all in this together'.**

**God Bless and keep each of you  
Father Peter  
Father Anselm**

**Catholics from the Diocese of  
Lismore are from 20th March  
2020 dispensed from their  
Sunday Mass obligation until  
further notice.**

# HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL

## We are an Easter people

On this great Easter day, when we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the Church puts before us the very early preaching of the apostles. From the Book of Acts, we hear Peter proclaiming the very core of our faith: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power."

Peter summarises Jesus's ministry: he "went about doing good." Peter recalls his death and resurrection: "They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and allowed him to be seen." But only to certain witnesses, Peter explains; it was "to us . . . who ate and

drank with him after he rose from the dead." Peter concludes, "Jesus commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God . . . and that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

St Paul also cuts to the core in his letter to the Colossians, highlighting the ramifications for those who believe: "Seek what is above. . . not what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Paul stresses that Jesus' death and resurrection makes a radical difference to us and to how we live our lives. We are called "to live a new life".

The gospel then takes us back to the world-changing experience on that first Easter morning: Mary Magdalene had gone to the tomb, only to find it empty, the body gone. Where was he? Was the body stolen? Confused, she ran to tell Peter who then, accompanied by another disciple ("the one whom

Jesus loved"), ran to the tomb. They find that the tomb is indeed empty. But the disciple whom Jesus loved gets it! No need for further evidence for him: he believes, there and then, that Jesus had risen from the dead.

For Peter and for Mary Magdalene, that faith would come with meeting the risen Lord face to face, seeing him with their own eyes. So too for Thomas, who refused to believe until he

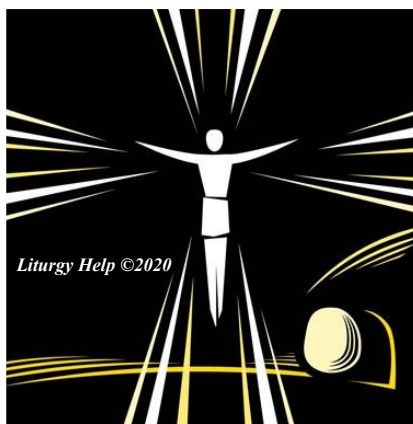
too saw and indeed touched the risen Lord. Blessed are those who, like the beloved disciple on that first morning, do not see but believe, Jesus tells Thomas.

So it is for us, who believe – even if sometimes shakily – that he did indeed rise from the dead and that he is our Lord and God, the Christ, our Saviour.

His resurrection changes everything. It affects the way we live our lives, what we value, what we work for, the choices we make, the way we face death, and the unswerving hope that is in us. That is what makes us an Easter people.

Anne Hunt

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**PRESBYTERY:** Phone: 6686 204

**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](mailto:kathryn@sfxballina.org.au)

**Email:** [parishcouncil@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@sfxballina.org.au)

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; **Email:** [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto: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](http://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



## BISHOP GREG'S EASTER MESSAGE 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters

In Arthurian and German legends, the search for the Holy Grail, the Chalice used by Our Lord at the Last Supper, gives a focus to many stories of chivalry and love. The knight Parsifal figures in both sets of legends. Richard Wagner takes the German version of the Parsifal story as the subject of his final opera.

The central moment of the opera takes place on Good Friday. Parsifal has been instructed in the spiritual meaning of Our Lord's death, and after an intense experience of Our Lord's passion, the young knight's world changes. Painting the scene with some of the most beautiful music ever composed, Wagner invites us into the transformation which happens to Parsifal. After Good Friday he sees the world and himself in an entirely different way, he sees through the eyes of God.

This year our Good Friday and Holy Saturday have been profoundly difficult. We have experienced loss, fear of the unknown, death, emptiness, isolation and loneliness. Each of these is an authentic Good Friday or Holy Saturday experience. We are taken to places in our soul which we would normally avoid. Social distancing has forced us to spend more time alone with ourselves, suffering these experiences. I pray that like Parsifal our sensitivity and perception might undergo an Easter transformation. That we might see the hand of our loving Father in creation, in others and within our own hearts.

On the first Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, gather around the empty tomb. Mary and Peter are perplexed. John looks in, sees an empty tomb and believes that Jesus is risen. He alone amongst the disciples knows what has happened. He sees what is not visible, his vision has been transformed. Oh that we might be changed as St John was changed.

In my daily Mass I pray for you, that you, your family and friends may have God's protection, that those working to care for the sick may be safe, and that we might soon be able to live in the freedom which we once knew.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter. The Lord is risen, He is Truly Risen.

*Most Revd Greg Homeming OCD*  
*Bishop of Lismore*

**Prayer to end the Pandemic:** *May we who are merely inconvenienced; **Remember those whose lives are at stake.** May we who have no risk factors; **Remember those most vulnerable.** May we who have the luxury of working from home; **Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.** May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close; **Remember those who have no options.** May we who have to cancel our trips; **Remember those that have no safe place to go.** May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market; **Remember those who have no margin at all.** May we who settle in for quarantine at home; **Remember those who have no home.** As fear grips our country, **let us choose to love.** During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other; **Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.** Cameron Bellm*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Robert Hosie Snr, Sr Marie Jean Akers, pbvm., Martin Boland, Stephen Hill, Cecilio Natural,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** John Condon, Bob Townsend,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Jan Carmont, Carolina Bordin, 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:** Sr Martha Casserley, Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (Aunty) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (2 yrs), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dymprna Sheehy, Greg Shore, 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, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, 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)

# Parish Notices



**EASTER GREETING**  
Fr Peter, Fr Anselm,  
Sr Kathryn and all the parish staff,  
would like to wish each and every  
one of you a very  
**Blessed and Holy Easter**

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioners with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.

- 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 reference  
*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, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month.  
*Thank you*

**THE EASTER TRIDUUM ON YOUTUBE LIVE**  
You are invited to view the Easter Triduum live and on demand from your devices .You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://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:



**Times of Live Streaming:**  
**Holy Thursday ~ 6.00 pm**  
**Good Friday ~ 3.00 pm**  
**Saturday Easter Vigil ~ 6.00 pm**  
**Easter Sunday ~ 8.00 am**



## MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

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### CATH NEWS

[www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

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**Google Catholic Masses and click your choice**

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**AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV**

## 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](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)

## TELEVISION FREE TO AIR GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AND EASTER SUNDAY MASS

**CHANNEL ~ PRIME 7 IN REGIONAL NSW**  
**From ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY**

**10th April Good Friday from 3.00 pm ~ The Lord's Passion**  
**12th April Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30 am**



## 'Beannacht'

May the nourishment of the earth be yours, May the clarity of light be yours, May the fluency of the ocean be yours, May the protection of the ancestors be yours. And so may a slow Wind work these words Of love around you, An invisible cloak To mind your life.

*Excerpt from John O'Donohue*

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Don't forget to return your envelopes. They can be returned to Parish Admin during office hours . Thank you



## Easter Vigil, April 11:

"Tonight at the Easter Vigil the community will light the Easter fire. We will be filled up finally with the story of salvation and the glory of what it means to have our once empty selves filled with all the goodness of life, all the vision, all the glory of life. We will know again that being monastic in mind, being single-minded about life, being given to one thing and one thing only—the glory of God—has all been worth it."

from *A Monastery Almanac*, by Joan Chittister [visionview-point@benetvision.org](mailto:visionview-point@benetvision.org)

## Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.' .....

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

<https://liturgyhelp.com>

## First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: '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. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

*(R) This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.*

1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. (R.)

3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

## Second Reading: Col 3:1-4

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

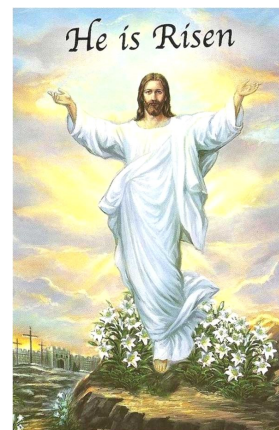
## Gospel: John 20: 1-9

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Hymn to be sung at home

**THIS IS THE DAY**

*Michael Joncas 1981*

**Refrain: This is the day  
The Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad.  
(REPEAT)**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
His mercy endures forever:

Let the house of Israel say:  
'His mercy endures forever.' R/~

2. The Lord's right hand has struck with pow'r,  
The Lord's right hand is exalted;  
I shall not die, but live  
And declare the works of the Lord. R/~

3. The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the cornerstone.  
By the Lord this has been done;  
It is wonderful in our eyes! R/~