

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 Epiphany of the Lord (A)

8th January, 2023

'WELCOME'

Weekend Mass Times Ballina

St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm

Sunday — 9.00 am

Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm

Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

at St Francis Xavier Church

**Tuesday to Friday
12.00 noon**

RECONCILIATION

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

Feast Days

**The Baptism of the Lord
Monday**

**MASS AT 12.00 NOON FOR THIS
FEAST DAY**

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**St Hilary
Friday**

Judge not by appearance

Most of us have no doubt sung more than once this popular Christmas carol, "We Three Kings"; and all our churches were probably adorned by "cribs" boasting statues of three exotic looking men dressed in royal finery, wearing crowns and riding on bejewelled camels. Their names — Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.

Based upon Matthew's claim that they came from the east (Mt 2:1) and saw the star rise in the east (Mt 2.2), it has often been assumed in Christian tradition that these men came from Persia to find the Christ. Other interpreters have thought that the wise men might have come from Arabia — hence the popular presentation of the "kings" as exotic worthies with princely accoutrements and camel transport. Such imagery and information, however, derive more from the popular imagination than it does from Matthew's Gospel.

Called by Matthew "Magi" (Mt 2:1), these colourful characters are not presented as kings, but rather as astrologers or wise men. They are not named; and there are no camels in sight. The text says nothing about there being three of them. The tradition that there were but three wise men arose from the fact that there were three gifts (Mt 2:11).

The term Magi reflects the Greek *magos*, which refers to a magician, sorcerer, or one wise in interpreting the stars and dreams. In ancient Media and Persia these Magi were associated with the priestly caste. Matthew presents these men as scholars who are "wise" not only in dream interpretation and

stargazing, but in Jewish traditions as well.

Matthew indicates that these wise men had studied the Hebrew Scriptures, where they found and correctly interpreted the messianic prophecies that told that "there shall come a star out of Jacob" (Nm 24:17; cf. Mt 2:2). Similarly, the chief priests whom Herod consults at the behest of the Magi find in Micah (5:2), a more specific reference to the Messiah's birth at Bethlehem (Mt 2:4-6).

This story draws on and reminds us of another "foreign" seer in the Old Testament, Balaam, who foresaw the future triumph of Israel over its enemies (Nm 24:17). Even Herod was Idumean and the representative of a foreign power; a king whose heritage and authority had the whiff of illegitimacy.

So, in Matthew's story, prophets, priests, and foreigners bring their collective wisdom to bear on the Scriptures to confirm the legitimacy of Jesus' later claim to messianic status. There is an obvious irony here, if not also a bit of folk wisdom. One should not judge by appearances; nor should one underestimate God.

The true prince appears in the world as a pauper, while the present king quakes in fear in his princely palace. God assumes human being not amidst the elites of society, but amidst the poor. Jesus' regnal status is recognised, not by his future subjects, but by those on the margins and those "on the nose", foreign astrologers and Idumean pretenders to the throne.

Ian J Elmer
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We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

ROSTER: 2nd Sunday Year A: 14th/15th January, 2023
Readings: Isaiah 49:3,5-6; Psalm 39; 1Cor 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Pauline Fingleton Sophie Sullivan	Richard Goss Julie McKinnon	Helen Cooney Maxine Cole
EMHC	Phil Chapman	Margaret Tay & Cathy Campbell	Leanne Robbins
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers		Marie Sullivan	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Jack Gabler (*Brisbane*), Betty Chandler,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Hortense Dunn, Mick O'Brien, Shane O'Brien, Father Tony Casey

AND ALSO FOR: Jack & Marie Flood, Beatrice Flood, 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: 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, Aunt 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.*

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS

Save the Date
11th February
2023

Saturday
9.30 to 11.30 am
All Welcome!!

'Coming Closer to Christ through Prayer'

Sunday
5th February

9.45 am

Parish Cuppa

Ash Wednesday

22nd February

Palm Sunday

2nd April

Holy Thursday

6th April

Good Friday

7th April

Holy Saturday

8th April

Easter Sunday

9th April

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ~ not in recess

You are invited to join in this unique form of prayer. **9.30 am Saturdays** in the Anawim Room Parish Administration Centre, entry via Swift Street.
Christian meditation is a very simple and ancient tradition of prayer. You will be warmly welcomed into this group.

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. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COMBINED IN THE ONE

COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information.

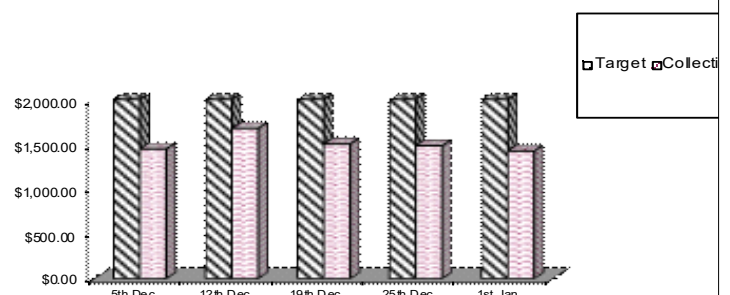
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you **use your Planed Giving number as reference**, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

DIF PAYS 2.60% PER ANNUM AS OF 1ST JANUARY, 2023

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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 829.55
Second Collection <i>Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 505.55
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,424.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



Parish Notices

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

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THIS MONDAY

9th JANUARY 2023

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED

****AT 12.00 NOON****

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH



THANK YOU to all who volunteered at our Masses over Christmas. To those who read and assisted with Holy Communion, the musicians who played, the parish choirs, sacristans, our door greeters and our ladies who arranged the beautiful flowers on the church altars and those who assisted with the collection. Thank you also, to our Church cleaner. Your support of the parish over the Christmas Season and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Patricia (Pat) Wilson** who has sadly passed away.

Requiem Mass will be held this Tuesday 10th January at 10.00am in St Francis Xavier Church.



SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Greg Shore** who has sadly passed away.

Funeral Prayers were held on Thursday 5th January in St Francis Xavier Church.

NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, **we welcome you to our faith community.** Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the box provided or contact the parish office.

If 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 and monthly deductions by Credit Card. **We look forward to meeting you.**

OUR PARISH IS IN URGENT NEED OF

CATHECHISTS FOR 2023 ~ Please consider.

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

Please contact the Parish Office 6681 1048.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 12th February 2023

**You are invited to St Joseph's Church
Coraki Centenary**

Join us for Mass at 9.15 am in St Joseph's Church Coraki followed by morning tea, at the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (next door)

Celebrating the 100 year Journey.

JOSEPHITE 2023 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. \$10.00 each.

Not too late for the New Year.

**Christian Mediation Saturday 9.30 am will continue
Parish Youth Group** is in recess

Marian Cenacle is in recess

Ballina CCR is in recess until 30th January, 2023

Sisterhood is in recess

Prayer of the Church & Rosary is in recess

Rosary at Holy Family Church 8.00 am Wednesday

Reflection: The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.



There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ. *Dianne Bergant CSA ~ Liturgy Help*

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

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 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through

the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Communion Antiphon: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

TUESDAY 10TH, WEDNESDAY 11TH, AND THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 ~

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Communion Antiphon: With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.

FEAST OF ST HILARY ~ BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH ~ FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY

Entrance Antiphon: I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord, will be their God.

Communion Antiphon: It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.



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