

# St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the 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.**

## The Epiphany of the Lord Year B

**3rd January, 2021**



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**Parish Weekend Mass Times  
St Francis Xavier Church  
Ballina**

**Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm  
Sunday — 9.00 am  
Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Holy Family Church  
Lennox Head**

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm  
Sunday—7.30 am**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT  
PARISH OFFICE TO ATTEND a  
weekend Mass by phoning  
6681 1048**

**or use the QR codes located on  
the doors of both Churches**

**WEEKDAY MASS:**

**At St Francis Xavier Church  
TUESDAY to FRIDAY**

**Please register with Parish Office  
or use the QR codes on the doors  
of the Church**

**RECONCILIATION**

**9.00 am Saturday  
St Francis Xavier Church**

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## The next big celebration

In the Church's liturgical calendar, the feast of the Epiphany signals the end of the Christmas season. In the secular world, Christmas is seen as an end-of-year celebration of success and good fortune. The monetary value of our presents is seen as a measure of our financial success.

Like all good 'hero myths', the secular version of the Christmas story ends with rewards for those who have triumphed over adversity. However, in the scriptures, Christmas is the start of a different hero story and, accordingly, its celebration presents us with a different vision of success.

In the gospels, the story of Jesus is told in the tones of an antihero. Born in obscurity, known only to poor shepherds and foreign stargazers, Jesus was not a success by the standards of the world. His ministry was limited to the hill country of Galilee and the back streets of Jerusalem. His audience were poor farmers and fisher folk who eked out a bare living from the soil and the sea, most of which was taken for taxes or tithes. His words were strange and unconventional. His followers were marginal people.

In terms of success, Jesus owned little but the clothes on his back. His family thought he had gone "out of his mind" (Mk 3:21). The authorities thought he was dangerous. His life ended on a cross and the ignominious death of a criminal. Yet, as Paul says in Philippians, "God raised him up and gave

him a name that is above all other names" (Phil 2:9).

Today's readings remind us that, while Jesus is a hero, his heroic quest is not what one might expect. In the gospels, Jesus' quiet heroism in the obscurity of backwater first-century Palestine holds out a fresh vision of what we should consider 'success' to be. It is not found in money, big cars, fancy houses, expensive presents, or a huge table of

festive fare.

True success is found in the dedication and commitment we display amidst the consumerism of popular culture. It is found in the moments of healing we bring to others by our concern and care. It is found in the courage we give to our family and friends with simple words of support and encouragement.

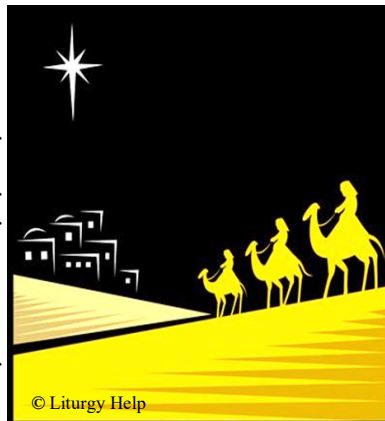
The feast of the Epiphany marks the end of Christ-

mas, but it also points forward to Easter. The wise men give gifts that include myrrh, an aloe used for anointing dead bodies (Matt 2:11), and a jealous secular king orders the massacre of innocents to try to destroy the "newborn king" (Matt 2:16-18).

The birth of Jesus derives its full significance from his ultimate death and resurrection. For it was only in the light of that experience that Jesus' followers eventually came to see that Jesus was God incarnate and that his birth was the centre-point of history.

Ian J Elmer

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

**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 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

**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

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Podgorczyk, Margaret Pyne, Greg Sutherland  
**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Barry Lloyd, Terry Sweeney, Armando Bordin, Maurie Walsh,

**AND ALSO FOR:** Fay Kerslake, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, 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:** Cathy Campbell, 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.

Under the current restrictions of 2 square metres people to sit in pews marked with X. Please 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.

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

### GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- Register prior to attending Mass is preferred by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
    - QR check-in is also available.
    - **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 unless you wear a mask (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.

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> collection).

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

### THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>First Collection</b>	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 756.10	
<b>Second Collection</b> Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 260.10	
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,474.00	
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00	

### 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

**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.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ 2021

## Parish Notices

**PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS: DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH REGULATIONS PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME OR USE BIN PROVIDED TO DISCARD. DO NOT RETURN OR LEAVE IN CHURCH.**



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Olive May Wallace** daughter of Mark and Kristie-Lea.

### BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE



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](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:



**Time of Live Streaming: Sunday ~ 8.00 am**

### CATECHISTS MATTER Volunteers NEEDED for 2021

**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 Pauline Shay Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0405 448 592.

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



**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)

**Parish Administration Office:** Will re-open this Monday 4th January.

**Christian Meditation Group:** Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room

**Cenacle Marian Movement of Priests:** Is in recess.

**Ballina CCR** is in recess.

**Prayer of the Church and Rosary** will resume Saturday 6th February.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will resume Friday 8th January.

**Parish Youth Group:** is in recess

### REACHING BEYOND 2020



People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment. See [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058 or email [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

**For 2021 "In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship and never in need."** Irish blessing

## Christ is born for us

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

*'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different;  
This Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like  
Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old  
dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.'*

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us.

And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

Liturgy Help 2011— Archive



### 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.**

**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: Eph 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: Mt 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.



Google image

**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 account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you**



**Invest** with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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 CDPF 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.