

# St Francis Xavier

## Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and future, the Bundjalung people.



**St Francis Xavier Church,  
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.**

*welcome*

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

### The Epiphany of Our Lord (B)

**7th January, 2024**



### Weekend Mass Times Ballina

**St Francis Xavier Church**  
**Saturday Vigil— 5.30 pm**  
**Sunday — 9.00 am**  
**Sunday — 11.00 am**

**Lennox Head**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**Sunday —7.30 am**

### WEEKDAY MASS

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY**  
**MASS 12.00 noon**

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

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**Feast Day**

**The Baptism of our Lord**  
**Monday**

**MASS AT 12.00 NOON**

**We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.**

### PARISH NOTICES



**BAPTISM:** Our parish family *warmly welcomes* into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Huey Abe and Reni Abe Green** children of Odin and Karly; **Elias Kaye Smith** son of Donald and Grace.

**THIS MONDAY 8TH JANUARY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**MASS AT 12.00 NOON**



### SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Michael Stokes** who has sadly passed away. A Funeral Prayer Service will be held this **Thursday 11th January at 9.30 am**, in Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



### SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish community extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Shari McLeish** who has sadly passed away. A Memorial Prayer Service will be held **Monday 15th January at 1.00 pm**, in Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.



*Thank You*

**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.



### 'CHERRY COFFEE CLUB' IS BACK FOR 2024

**Ladies** of our parish you are invited to gather for morning tea. **10.00 am This Tuesday 9th January at Cherry Street, Bowling Club. No booking required. All welcome!**



**CATECHISTS:** A Catechist meeting will be held on **Monday 29th January at 9.30 am in the St Teresa Room Parish Admin building to plan for the new year. If you are an existing catechist or considering to be a helper you are most welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided.**

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:** If you would like to help out within our parish with any of our various activities, including laptop operator, musician, singer, hospitality including handing out bulletins and welcoming people, please inform Father or the Parish Office on 6681 1048 - email [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:admin@sfxballina.org.au) *Thank you.*

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

**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

**Deacon:** Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

**Pastoral Associate:** John Kearney Email: [john@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au)

**Parish Youth Co-Ordinator:** Kailani Tiernan Email: [ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@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

**ROSTER: 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time , Year B: 13th/14th January 2024**  
**Readings : 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19 Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20; John 1:35-42**

	<b>Saturday 5.30 pm Vigil Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday ~ 7.30 am Lennox Head</b>	<b>Sunday 9.00 am Ballina</b>	<b>Sunday 11.00 am Ballina</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Mick Vella Trish Bazar</i>	<i>Murray Deeps Amanda Deeps</i>	<i>Gary Reen Annette Reen</i>	<i>Maxine Cole Leanne Robbins</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Peter Bowen</i>	<i>Mark McDonald</i>	<i>Gemma Duffy Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Maurice Gahan</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Pam Hanson Gerry Taylor</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
Michael Stokes, Noel McDonald (*Murwillumbah*), Shari McLeish (*Orange*), Una Smith, Maureen Collings Genie Enright Bryan Kassulke Peter Dignam,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME :** Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Hortense Dunn, Mick O'Brien, Shane O'Brien, Father Tony Casey, Maurie Walsh,

**AND ALSO FOR:** *Marj & Pat Hobbins, 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, 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 SERIOUSLY ILL:** Kathleen Young, Loretta and John Heaton, Hugo Long (*14 mths*), Patrick O'Mara, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Ken Delany, Peter Mazzer, Elizabeth Townsend, Mary Evans, John McCoy, Noeline Conyngham Mick Ronan, Annemarie Higgins, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Neville Johnston, John Keightly (*Inverell*), Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach and family, Michael Hains, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings family members, Abby Barrie (*Tasmania*), Joan Flew, Carmel Hackett, Leila Atken (*Sydney*), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunty* Julia Paden, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, 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.* (Please advise if a name is to be removed if good health has been restored).

**UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2024**

<b>9th January</b>	<b>Tuesday 10.00 am</b>	<b>'Cherry' Coffee</b>
<b>29th January</b>	<b>Monday 9.30 am</b>	<b>Catechist Meeting</b>
<b>4th February</b>	<b>Sunday 9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Cuppa</b>
<b>Save the Date 17th February</b>	<b>Saturday Time tba All Welcome</b>	<b>Men's Gathering</b>
<b>14th February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>29th March</b>	
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>30th March</b>	
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>31st March</b>	

**POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR  
JANUARY 2024**

**FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH**  
**We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.** [www.thecatholictelegraph.com/](http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/)

**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.

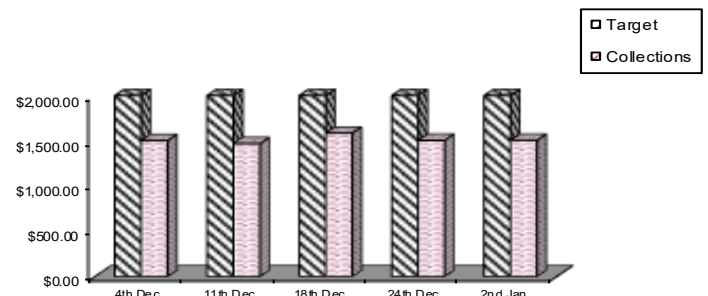
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**

**DIF PAYS 4.15% 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](http://www.dif.org.au)

**THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 1,024.65
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 636.15
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,506.50
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



### THE WITNESS THAT BEGINS IN OUR HEART

In my office there is a wall hanging with the letters C+M+B. which I was given when I visited Innsbruck in Austria in 1997. As I walked from the railway station to our Redemptorist house, I noticed these letters written in chalk above the entrance doors to a number of houses in the following fashion 19\*C+M+B+97.

When I asked one of my confreres about the meaning of the sign, he explained that in German-speaking Europe the feast of the Epiphany has become a charitable, fundraising event. Officially known as "Operation Three Kings Singing" the annual event is sponsored by the Catholic church and Catholic youth organisations. Most of the participants are young people who dress in costumes resembling what the Magi supposedly wore when they visited the baby Jesus.

With the leader carrying a star, the costumed Star Singers walk from house to house and sing traditional Christmas carols. At each stop they also solicit donations for various children's charities in Austria, Germany and abroad, as well as programs to end hunger in parts of the world. In Catholic regions, especially in rural areas or in smaller towns, the Star Singers may also inscribe the C+M+B house-blessings.

Traditionally, the letters C+M+B stand for the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates as "Christ bless this house." However, in a popular interpretation, the letters in the inscription stand for the names of the three Wise Men (Magi): Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar and the numbers indicate the year which in my experience was 1997. The inscription is usually made with chalk that has been blessed by a local Catholic priest. The letters are clever as they include both the blessing and a popular interpretation.

The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek and means *appearance* or showing forth and describes Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles. The Gentiles are represented by the Magi or wise men whom we have traditionally called the three kings or wise men. The names of the Magi from the East are not mentioned in the bible but come from a sixth century Roman tradition. The number three is taken from the gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Originally, the word Epiphany referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. In the context of Christianity, Epiphany refers to God's self-revelation in Jesus.

The gospel story of the wise men from the east following a star is an invitation to all of us to seek the Lord in the living of our lives, and to become what Pope Francis calls 'missionary disciples' who bear witness to others to the difference Jesus makes in our lives. This witness will begin in our hearts and homes and reach out to the wider world where we witness by our faith commitment and the values by which we live.

May the feast of the Epiphany be an occasion of personal and family blessing.

Michael A Kelly CSsR © Majellan 2024



**SAVE THE DATE ~ SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ~**  
**MEN'S GATHERING Further details to be advised.**



**The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office** can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office—Phone: **(02) 6621 9444** or Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

### 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. For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on 6622 7288 or Email: [tribunal@lismore.catholic.org](mailto:tribunal@lismore.catholic.org)

### CATECHISTS MATTER ~ Volunteers NEEDED for 2024

**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 Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

**Please give some thought to this important invitation.**

**You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.**

### 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 4.30 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

### 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.



# 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.



**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 DAILY MASSES****MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024 ~ FEAST DAY ~ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, 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 9th, WEDNESDAY 10th, THURSDAY 11th, FRIDAY 12th JANUARY**

**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.

**FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL**

**DID YOU KNOW?** • The word 'epiphany' comes from a Greek word meaning manifestation or revelation. In Matthew's Gospel, this episode is the first public manifestation of Jesus.

• Herod the Great ruled only because Rome allowed it. He was not Jewish (his mother was not Jewish) but he had married into the royal family. He would have been very afraid of a possible rival to his claim to the throne.

• This text again mentions that Jesus was born at home in Joseph's house in Bethlehem. The family only relocated to Nazareth after having fled to Egypt to escape the threat from Herod to the child's safety.

• The 'wise men' were probably magi or astrologers from Persia and represent all those who seek God with a sincere heart.

• The gifts of the magi are of great value; gifts fit for a king.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS** • 'The sight of the star filled them with delight.' Share your own stories of times of pure delight in your life.

• Use today's gospel acclamation as your prayer this week:

*Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia.*

[www.cam.org.au/summit](http://www.cam.org.au/summit)