

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 Year C

2nd January, 2022



**QR check-in is
mandatory**
'ALL WELCOME'

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**

Saturday Vigil—5.00pm

Sunday—7.30 am

PLEASE QR IN UPON ARRIVAL

**Manual registration is also
provided.**

WEEKDAY MASS:

**at St Francis Xavier Church
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
12.00 noon**

**Register with NSW QR codes or
manual registration sheets.**

RECONCILIATION

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

The child is revealed

What's being revealed to us twelve days after Christmas, because this is what Epiphany means: something is shown, or revealed to us. We're all in holiday mode and then these Magi, these wise men appear, following a star.

But weren't they there at the crib? So, what are they doing turning up now? (It's been suggested they arrived quite some time after the birth, but that's not what is being revealed.) It's a vividly dramatic story filled with light and intense darkness too. The wise men come from the East, from far away, strangers led by a star, not knowing where it might lead them. We might wonder what star would we follow, setting out, not knowing where we're going? Have our lives been interrupted at some point? When they arrive in Jerusalem they ask the authorities, "Where is the infant king of the Jews?"

This causes great consternation and Herod calls together the religious leaders who tell him that, according to prophecy, this king was to be born just down the road in Bethlehem and show no further interest. We understand their reluctance: we too have been given this gift, but often prefer to keep it under wraps and just do the decent thing.

Meanwhile, Herod is alert to what the wise men say because he wants to eliminate this possible threat to his throne. Again, we know something of Herod's instinct, the fear underlying it, the need to be in control. The wise

men listen and take their leave, guided by what they have heard.

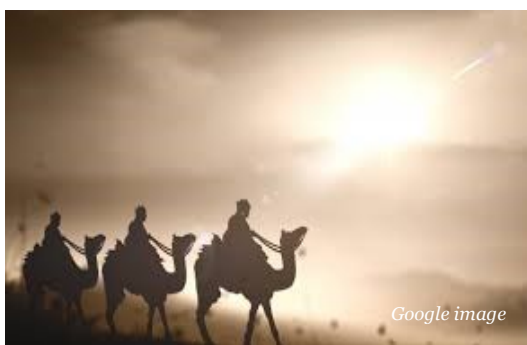
Now, the star reappears overhead and filled with joy, they're drawn on by its light, until it stops over a house, in Bethlehem. They go in and seeing Mary and her child they open their hearts, and 'do him homage'. Who, in our lives, are we able to revere, to open our hearts to, putting aside whatever else, whether money, status, or influence? Then, they open their treasures and offer him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The wisdom of the wise men leads us to this. What are we able to offer him from our treasures, our lives, and so to those whom we love and respect? At the gospel's end, warned in a dream, they find another way home, leaving behind Her-

od and his enablers. In a world full of shadows and threat, a light still leads them.

As we learn to open our hearts a little, we come before him hesitantly with the gift of ourselves and 'do him homage'. In doing so, we will begin to know the wonder of Isaiah in the first reading and begin to share in the 'same inheritance', as the second reading says. In Matthew's gospel it's the Magi who first reveal to us we are no longer strangers to one another, that we belong to one another, in Jesus Christ. What's revealed to us in this child, is the glory of God being with us, now and forever.

Damian Coleridge
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Google image

***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 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Alane Atangana-Etundi, Brian Carey, Father Lyall Cowell,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Greg Ellis, Armando Bordin, Barry Lloyd, Maurice Walsh

AND ALSO FOR: 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: Helen Cox, Sr Margaret Mary pbvm, Father Anthony Lemon, Mardi Seabrook, Joan Flew, Reg Miller, Helen Johnston, Barbara Levett, Maureen West (Sydney), Noro Ruben Mazzorch, Dorothy Preddey (Sydney), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Kathleen Campbell, Gregory Thomas, Danny Reynolds (Caloundra), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Dymrna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (Dubai), Corazon Accon, Pauline McLachlan, Darcy Martin, (Aunty) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged

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.

CONFIRMATION: TBA **RECONCILIATION:** 22nd March, 2022. **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** 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.

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

NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

- Covid-19 check-in is mandatory for places of worship.
- Manual registration is available, place your name and contact on sheet provided
- Please wear a mask while indoors
- Receival of Holy Communion in the hand only
- Singing by choir only
- No density limits—Social distancing of 1.5m where possible and practical
- If unwell please stay home until you feel better



Any amended public health orders that come into place will be followed.

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

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am
Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am to 11.45 am every Friday

Sisterhood: is in recess

Parish Youth Group: is in recess

Ballina CCR : is now in recess until 31/01/2022

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: is in recess until Saturday 5th February 2022

Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head: 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.

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

NEW PARISHIONER? If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, **we welcome you to our 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 6681 1048.



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: This month can you provide Transport for Pastoral Care in Malawi? Your support will help priests and religious to visit their people and aid their ministry to administer the sacraments and to keep the Faith alive. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

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 2022

Parish Notices



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week: **Reign Lester Meaney** son of Nicholas and Shania; and **Leon River Plantrou** son of Aymeric and Lindsey.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE will reopen this Tuesday 4th January.
To contact a priest over the holiday period please call the Presbytery mobile **0423 445 639**.



CATECHISTS MATTER
Volunteers NEEDED for 2022
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.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS: Count your blessings instead of your crosses. Count your gains instead of your losses. Count your joys instead of your woes. Count your friends instead of your foes. Count your smiles instead of your tears. Count your courage instead of your fears. Count your full times instead of your lean. Count your kind deeds instead of your mean. Count your health instead of your wealth. Love your neighbor as much as yourself. *'Unknown'*



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

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 (02) 6621 9444 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS LIVE ON YOUTUBE



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, 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 at 9.00 am

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

John H Hopkins

1.
We three kings of
Orient are
Bearing gifts we travel
afar
Field and fountain,
moor and
mountain, following
yonder star. **R/**

2.
Born a babe on
Bethlehem's plain
Gold we bring to
crown him again
King forever,
ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **R/**

4.
Myrrh is mine its
bitter perfume
Breathes a life of
gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone
cold tomb. **R/**

REFRAIN
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading,
still proceeding
Guide us to the perfect Light.

3.
Frankincense to
offer have I
Incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising
gladly raising,
worshipping God on high. **R/**

5.
Glorious now behold
him rise
King and God and sacrifice
Heav'n sings, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah earth replies. **R/**



Notes on the Gospel Text: 2:1 'Magi' can be literally translated at 'magicians' but this would miss the point of whom they really were. 'Magi' were astrologers, religious leaders, and royal advisers in Persia. The term 'Magi' was retained because of its unique meaning.

2:2 '... his star in the East ...' Ancient religions saw divine will written in the night sky. Astrologers would study and interpret the stars to advise kings and aristocracy. What the night sky revealed, they held, would occur on earth.



Excerpt from www.word-sunday.com, A Lectionary Resource for Catholics

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 BOXES 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;
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

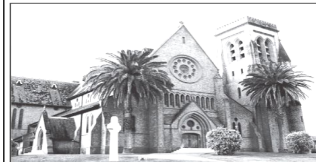
After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the 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.

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**



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.